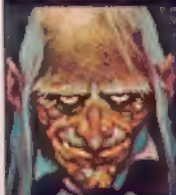


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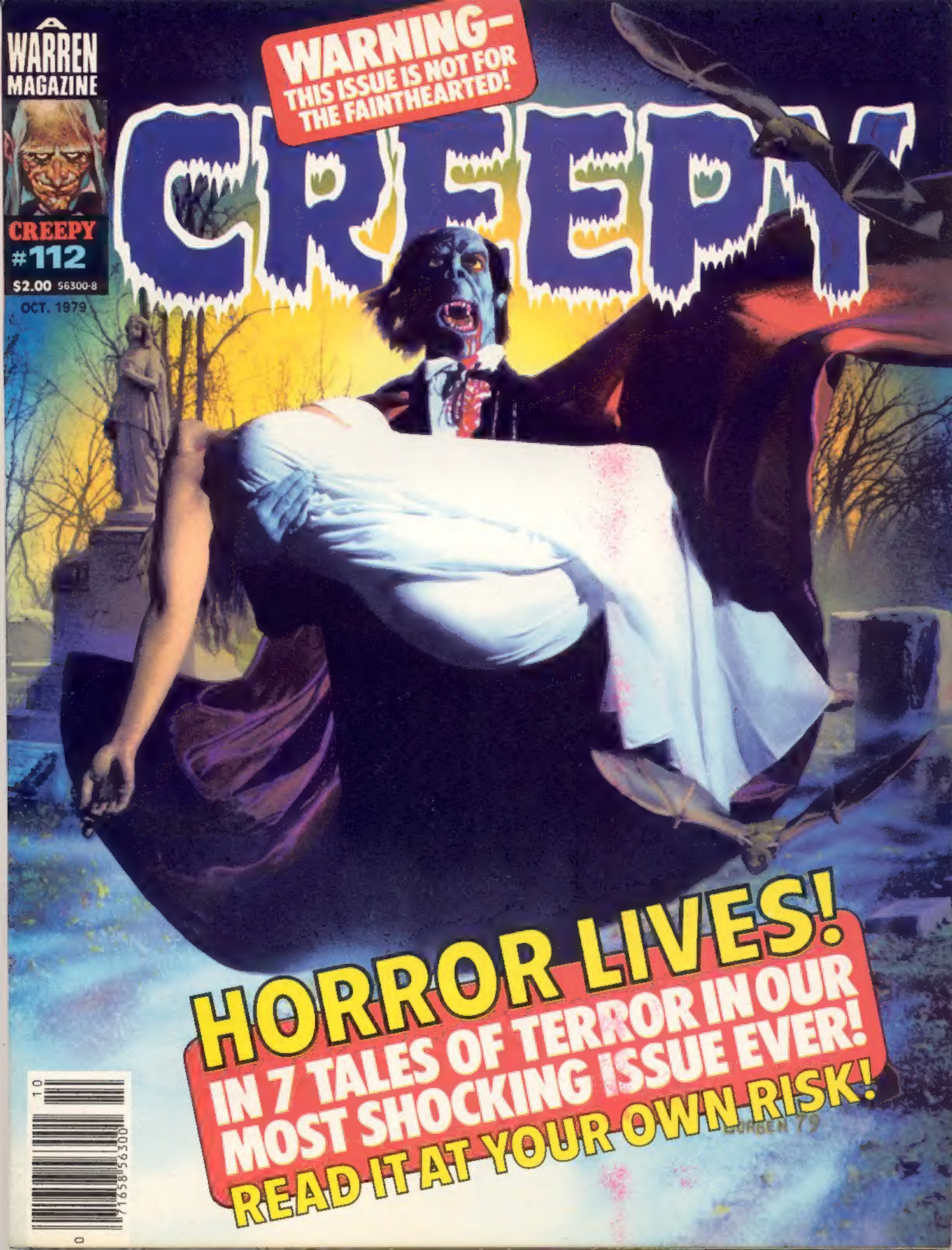
CREEPY
#112

\$2.00 56300-8

OCT. 1979

WARNING—
THIS ISSUE IS NOT FOR
THE FAINTHEARTED!

CREEPY



HORROR LIVES!
IN 7 TALES OF TERROR IN OUR
MOST SHOCKING ISSUE EVER!
READ IT AT YOUR OWN RISK!



GURBEN 79

Warren Publishing Co. Proudly Presents
a Very Unusual Offer...

Genuine Soil from Dracula's Castle

Authentic Soil from Vlad's Castle in Transylvania

DUST from DRACULA'S DOMAIN. Actual Earth (Guaranteed Authentic) from the Crumbling Ruins of the Legendary Vlad, the Mad Monarch who generations ago terrorized Transylvanians and inspired Bram Stoker to create the famous masterpiece of vampirism, DRACULA. There are 3 billion people on this planet but only 5,000 can wear this incredible creation. A striking ornamentally-wrought, beautiful piece of art in itself, this fabulous pendant is equally suitable for the neck of man or woman.

One Gram of Soil in Each Amulet

From the gold-plated chain is suspended a transparent miniature coffin containing one gram of genuine earth from the exact place where Vlad (Dracula) once made macabre history. No mystic powers are claimed for this amulet, and yet—who could fail to feel a tingle up and down the spine when viewing oneself in a mirror, observing this rare soil lying close to one's heart? What vampire lover could fail to feel—*special*—as he or she sees envy in the eyes of a fellow vampirian not fortunate enough to own one of Vlad's Pendants? What Draculean disciple would not know a sense of supernatural power when wearing this unusual object?

Certificate of Authenticity

Each Pendant is \$17.95 and comes with a Certificate of Authentication. This is not a gag, not a spoof, not a gimmick, not a put-on. The soil in this unique Pendant actually came from the Castle Dracula, high in the Transylvanian Mountains of Romania—where Bram Stoker's hero Jonathan Harker discovered the fascinating and extraordinary secrets of Count Dracula and the mysterious Vampires. Encased in clear plastic, artistically secured on a golden chain, this Dust of Dracula can now be preserved through lifetimes to come. Starting with YOU. Sorry, orders are limited: no more than 3 to a customer.

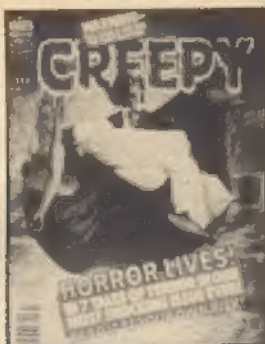
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of the Greatest Horror Story
ever told. Order Yours Now!**

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NAME _____
ADDRESS _____
CITY _____
STATE _____ ZIP _____

ACTUAL SIZE OF AMULET: 1 1/4"



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SUZIN STARK

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MIKE SCHNEIDER

Cover
RICH CORBEN

Writers In This Issue
ARCHIE GOODWIN
LARRY HAMA
JOHN LAKEY
BOB TOOMEY

Artists In This Issue
AURALEON
LEO DURANONA
VAL LAKEY
ALEX NINO
JOHN SEVEILIN
WALT SIMONSON
AL WILLIAMSON

CREEPY No. 112 PUBLISHED MONTHLY EXCEPT APRIL AND DECEMBER BY WARREN PUBLISHING CO. EDITORIAL, SUBSCRIPTION & BUSINESS OFFICES AT 145 EAST 32nd STREET, N.Y., N.Y. 10016. TELEPHONE: (212) 683-6050.

SUBSCRIPTIONS: 10 ISSUES FOR \$16.00 IN THE U.S.; CANADA AND ELSEWHERE \$20.00.

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CREEPY®

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OCTOBER 1979

4 DEAR UNCLE CREEPY You can't make up your minds; #109 was either terrific for its variety or so lackluster that theme issues are a better bet! And everyone loves Al Williamson!

5 THE HOMECOMING Mankind was locked into the solar system by some unseen enemy. The only solution was to explore Earth's parallel worlds for the one unguarded by the aliens!

14 THE COMIC BOOKS Joe Brancatelli plugs you into the comics grapevine as he looks at The Comic Reader's sales figures for some of the top selling magazines in the comics industry!

15 WARRIORS RITUAL The Foreign Legion was an army of strangers, misfits and the just plain demented. Some joined to get away from life. Others joined to get what life can't give!

25 NOBODY'S KID Finally your father knew! And he didn't like it at all. He was shamed before God and man. So he decided to let his brother and his wife know how bad he felt—with an ax!

33 RELIC Tatterstall and company, fresh from the Quirks case (#107), have embarked on a mission of discovery to the planet Relic. Only it wasn't there! In its place was a huge & hungry monster!

41 BEAST SLAYER DeKoven was the beast slayer on the trail of the ultimate beast. He'd tracked it through the mountain valleys and over the desolate peaks only to kill a legend!

51 SUNDAY DINNER Sunday dinner was always an adventure in dining. You and your family would go out and gourmandize your way through an ethnic repast. Yum! This week let's eat Chinese!

60 THE LAST SORCERER Sharkhan was the last sorcerer in the western world. He and his brothers could once make or break kings! But now the Western Lands no longer believe in magic!

CONCERNING OUR MAIL ORDER ADVERTISEMENTS: Warren Publishing guarantees our merchandise will be replaced if not received in satisfactory condition. Should you need to write us concerning an order, whether it be from our address or a Post Office Box address, send your letter to: E.C. Ives, Customer Service Dept., Warren Publishing Co., 145 E. 32nd Street, New York, N.Y. 10016.

Dear Uncle Creepy,

WELCOME BACK ARCHIE GOODWIN!

The cover of CREEPY #108 by Terrance Lindall is almost beyond words of description. I mean—that thing was really weird! It reminded me so much of the kind of thing they had on Rod Serling's *Night Gallery*—it was like the guy was really looking into another dimension when he painted it! WILD!

CREEPY #109 seemed more diversified in subject matter than most recent issues. When every story is basically the same subject, they tend to get lost in each other. Let's have fewer of those theme issues. They're not necessarily dull—but each tale ends up competing with all the others, and they fail to stand out by themselves.

"Vampire Dawn" is an indication to me that Archie Goodwin belongs at Warren! I never enjoyed his Marvel stories as much. Here he created an incredibly tension-filled study in terror. Moreno Casares' work was—as always—great!

The rest of the issue seemed like left-overs. None of the other stories outright impressed me. "The Organizer" was interesting enough, but there's something about bugs—oh, well. By the way, Dr. John Stanford seemed to resemble Luis Balleiron from Leo Duranona's "Fungus" story. Does he use the same models regularly?

Was that really Luis Bermejo's art on "Heart of Darkness"? It looked different from almost anything he'd done before, since he relied more on linework than shading. Actually, it reminded me of either Leopold Sanchez' or Auraleon's work.

HENRY KUJAWA
Camden, N.J.

I'm late writing this but I had to let you know—CREEPY #105 was pure excellence! The cover by Esteban Maroto was great. He should be encouraged to do more covers! And all the stories lived up to the promise of the cover! But my favorite was "Dime Novel Hero" by Russ Heath and Nicola Cuti. The art work was brilliant! Len Wein's "Always Leave 'em Laughing" was my second favorite featuring Alex Nino's wildly imaginative pictures. His work will always leave 'em spellbound! I liked Buz Valtz' art in "Visit to a Primitive Planet," but I'd have preferred more dialogue. Still it had a good ending.

The rest of the issue was fantastic too!

MICHAEL WISE
Boonton, N.J.

If #109 is any indication, I'd like to see a return to the theme issues. What a lackluster issue! Only the mildly novel plot of "The Organizer" was even remotely interesting. "Vampire Dawn" and "The Ravenscroft Affair" were neither suspenseful nor frightening. "Heart of Darkness" had a certain somnambulate charm but its plot was transparent. "Alien Affair" reminded me of "Fungus" (VAMPIRELLA #79). The stories' differences were not pronounced enough to counter my feeling of *deja vu*. Even Joe Brancatelli's usually excellent column lacked focus. And to top it off (or to start it off) Jim Laurier's cover was not a "grabber" since, although somewhat bizarre, it failed to convey a dramatic situation. Organic alien ships shooting lightning bolts at earth—big deal!

THE MAD MAPLE
Toronto, Canada

Overall, CREEPY #109 was not one of your best issues, but it was fairly good.

The script for "Vampire Dawn" by Archie Goodwin was a little better than the art by Moreno Casares. "The Organizer" enhanced by Leo Duranona's use of photo backgrounds combined with art.

The rest of the stories were only fair with the exception of "Heart of Darkness" by Bill Mantlo. It really stood out!

I would like to comment on something I haven't seen commented about much. That's Joe Brancatelli's column. I really like his section, and I read it every time it appears in CREEPY. I hope it stays around for a long time.

Get Romus Kukalis to do some inside artwork. I know it would be difficult, but his covers are terrific. I'll bet his inside black and white work would be equally spectacular!

ERIC MATTY
Chesapeake, Va.

I just finished reading CREEPY #109 and I just had to write! It was one of the best issues I've read in a long time!

Archie Goodwin's "Vampire Dawn" was good but the ending wasn't much of a surprise.

I thought Bruce Jones' "The Organizer" was the best story in the issue.

How about devoting a whole issue to bugs?

STEPHEN MICENEC
Pennsauken, N.J.

Although letter writing to the comics media is not new to me, this is my first Warren attempt. I've been reading your magazines for over two years now, and I must say that I am distraught. Where are the artists I used to love? Sure I enjoy Alex Nino, Russ Heath, Rich Corben, Val Mayerik, and company, but where are Bern Wrightson, Frazetta, John Severin, and the rest!?

All right I'm sorry, but I had to get that out.

Now on to CREEPY #109. With "Vampire Dawn", we see that at least one big name of latter day CREEPY greatness can still produce worthy material. I'm talking about Archie Goodwin. In my view, Archie = CREEPY. That's all!

Bruce Jones' "The Organizer" was idiotic. "The Ravenscroft Affair" was passable.

"Alien Affair" was very interesting, but I would have changed the ending slightly. (Sorry, Cary).

Finally, let me tell you guys that criticizing and praising is my hobby, and that I really enjoy your efforts. With luck this letter will see print (without too much editing, I hope), and I intend to read CREEPY, EERIE, and VAMPIRELLA for a long, long time.

MICHAEL VASSALLO
Woodside, N.Y.



As I'm sure you've already noted, Michael, a John Severin/Archie Goodwin collaboration appears in this issue. Neither Wrightson nor Frazetta are doing commercial comics these days. When either agrees to do a new story for us, you readers will be the first to know!

CREEPY is the greatest! #109 was a good example. It's great to see Archie Goodwin back again. His "Vampire Dawn" was one of the best stories in the issue. The other two were "The Organizer" and "The Ravenscroft Affair", the latter being the best.

The sci-fi stories "Alien Affair" and "Heart of Darkness," were good, but I'd prefer a sword & sorcery and a space story per issue. You also should have less sci-fi on the covers and more dark, gory paintings.

Why did you take Uncle CREEPY off the cover of #109? His face improves any cover. One more suggestion, why not have a sale of back issues once in a while?

JOHN CARLILE
Heber, Utah

Yahoo! After all these years, Archie Goodwin is finally back at Warren. No one can write horror stories like Goodwin can, and "Vampire Dawn" is vivid proof.

In this day and age of science fiction, it was refreshing to have the hell scared out of me by a good old horror story. I always felt that Goodwin did his best work at Warren, and I hope he's with you to stay!

KEVIN MCCONNELL
Warren, Pa.



Goodwin stories illustrated by Severin and Williamson are in this issue, Kevin. A Goodwin/Toth epic is scheduled for this winter.

Jim Laurier's cover on CREEPY #109 was pretty good!

I'm glad to see Archie Goodwin is still with us, folks! His story "Vampire Dawn" was the best in the issue!

#109 had a couple of other good stories. They were "Alien Affair" and "The Organizer". The two worst stories were "The Ravenscroft Affair" and "Heart of Darkness." Absolutely awful!

Also it seemed to me that the cover felt funny because it wasn't made with the same paper as the previous issues. Make sure you go back to the old paper.

I have a feeling that in 1984 when CREEPY's 20th anniversary issue rolls around (#164?), it will have a cover price of \$3.00, be about 128 pages long, have two color stories, 45 pages of ads (mostly on Star Wars #4, Superman #5, Alien #3 and Jaws #6) and be one of twenty different Warren titles on the newsstand. So what else will be new?

JOHN OJEDA
West New York, N.J.

Hooray! Archie Goodwin's back!


How about teaming him up with some of his old buddies like John Severin, Alex Toth or Al Williamson?

SHEL JOHNSON
Atlanta, Ga.

DEAR UNCLE

Creepy,


C/O WARREN
PUBLISHING CO.
145 EAST 32nd STREET
NEW YORK, N.Y. 10018




UNTARNISHED, SILVER-BRIGHT, THE SHIP, AS ALWAYS, FAULTLESSLY APPROACHES THE NEXT STOP IN ITS LONG, LONG JOURNEY.

WITHIN ITS WALLS OF ETERNAL ALLOY, THE MAN, AS ALWAYS, DESPAIRS.

THE HOMECOMING



IT'S *WRONG*, COMPUTER. I CAN TELL ALREADY. THE *TREES*... THE COLOR OF THE *SKY*... *ALL* WRONG!




LOOK! HERE SHE COMES... A *BLONDE*! I-I... I'M *POSITIVE* SHE WASN'T A *BLONDE*.

ARE YOU *SURE*? AFTER SO MANY... ARE YOU *REALLY* *SURE*?

POSITIVE? AFTER A *HUNDRED* WORLDS... MAYBE A *THOUSAND* ...PERHAPS, NOW...? *NEVER*.

TRY IT, IT CAN'T *HURT* TO TRY!

JASON! JASON, DARLING... AT LAST! AFTER SO *LONG*...!



LARA...! OH, LORD...

AND FOR THE MOMENT, AS ALWAYS, HE *BELIEVES*...

...BECAUSE, AS ALWAYS, HE *WANTS* TO BELIEVE.

LATER, THE *DOUBT*
WILL BEGIN.



SOMETIMES IT COMES WITH FOOD,
WITH DRINK... A TASTE TOO
ALIEN. A FLAVOR
TOO *STRANGE*.



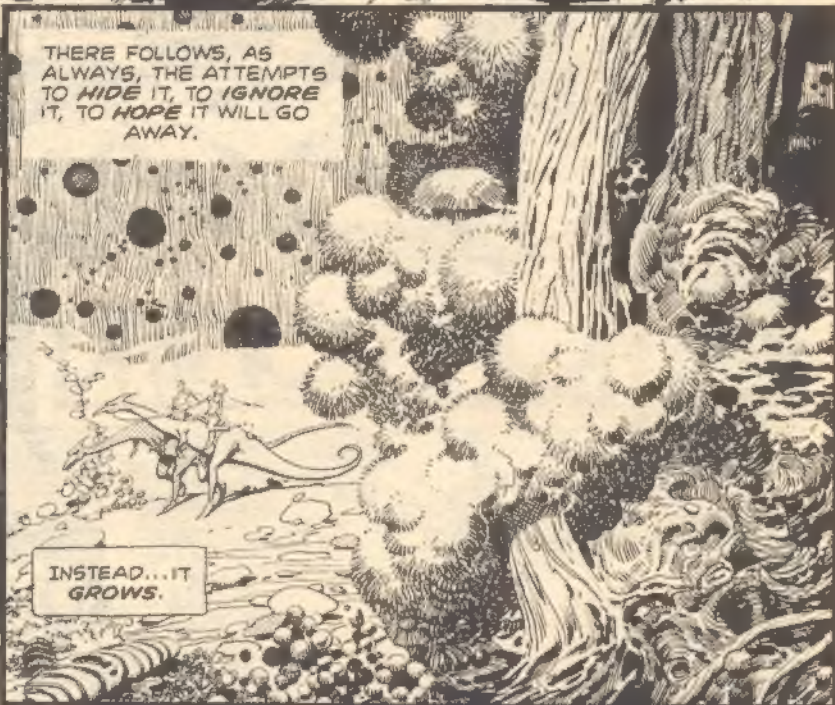
BUT IF NOT THEN...

...*ALWAYS* IN THE MOMENTS
OF LOVE, OF QUIET
INTIMACY.



NO MATTER HOW *NEAR*, HOW CLOSE TO
PERFECT, SOMEHOW THE HOLLOWNESS,
THE UNREALITY MAKES ITSELF FELT.

THERE FOLLOWS, AS
ALWAYS, THE ATTEMPTS
TO *HIDE* IT, TO *IGNORE*
IT, TO *HOPE* IT WILL GO
AWAY.



INSTEAD...IT
GROWS.

FINALLY, AS ALWAYS, THE
TIME COMES. HE LOOKS AT
HER. SHE LOOKS AT HIM.
THE *TRUTH* IS FACED, THE
ADMISSION MADE.

...YOU'RE NOT
MY JASON. BUT
EVEN *KNOWING*,
I CAN'T HELP
BUT WISH...



BUT WISHING CAN'T
CHANGE THE *LIE*,
CAN'T MAKE THE
REALITIES *MESH*.
THE ONLY THING LEFT,
AS ALWAYS, IS THE
LEAVING...



AND, PERHAPS, THE *HOPE*. NEXT TIME. NEXT TIME...

I'M SORRY, JASON.
TRULY SORRY.

AT LEAST IT WAS CLOSE, COMPUTER.
CLOSER THAN SOME.

THE LONG, LONG JOURNEY CONTINUES...

...UNTIL THE
NEXT WORLD...

...THE NEXT LANDING...

...THE NEXT WOMAN
NAMED LARA WHO
WAITS.

THE VARIATIONS ARE ENDLESS.
THE DETAILS MYRIAD AND
CONFUSING, YET FOR ALL
THAT...DEPRESSINGLY
THE SAME.

JASON, IS
SOMETHING
...WRONG?

EVENTS BECOME REPETITIVE,
INEVITABLE, DESPITE A
GLOSS OF DIFFERENCE...

...INEVITABLE AS THE
MOMENT OF *DEPARTURE*.

WE HAD TO TRY,
JASON. IT NEVER
HURTS TO--

WRONG,
COMPUTER.
IT ALWAYS
HURTS.

THE LONG, LONG JOURNEY GOES ON. SPACE, TIME BECOME CONCEPTS WITHOUT MEANING, FOR THE DISTANCES TRAVELLED ARE NOT BETWEEN STARS...

...BUT BETWEEN UNIVERSES. UNIVERSES CLOSE AS PEARLS STRUNG ON THE SAME STRAND; UNIVERSES FAR APART AS SANITY AND MADNESS.

YOU SHOULD SLEEP NOW, JASON. REST.

THE FREEZE GAS BEGINS TO SEEP INTO THE LIFE-SUPPORT BUBBLE. ODORLESS. COLORLESS. NUMBING. QUICK.

I NEED THE SLEEP, COMPUTER... BUT NOT THE AWAKENING. I'M SICK OF IT... SICK OF IT ALL.

YOU ALWAYS SAY THAT WHEN YOU'RE TIRED, JASON. SLEEP. REST...

...I'M HERE TO PROTECT YOU. NEXT TIME COULD BE IT.

NEXT TIME...


HOW OLD AM I, COMPUTER?

YOU KNOW THAT'S RELATIVE, JASON. ALMOST MEANINGLESS. PHYSICALLY... ? A FEW YEARS OLDER THAN WHEN WE LEFT.

A FEW YEARS...! A FEW THOUSAND EONS... A FEW BILLION WORLDS! IT'S SO LONG, COMPUTER... SO LONG.

RELATIVE, JASON... ALL RELATIVE.

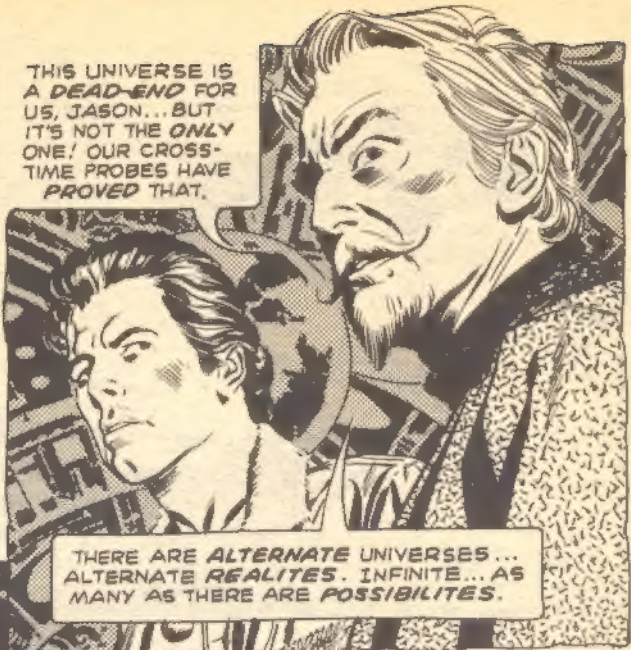
CRYOGENIC SLEEP COMES TO THE MAN, CAPTURING A TEARDROP IN ITS WAKE, TRANSFORMING IT INTO A LONELY, SPARKLING STAR.



IN THE LIGHT OF THE TEARDROP-STAR,
THE FROZEN MAN DREAMS...OF A
WORLD, A UNIVERSE, HOW HAZY,
UNCERTAIN, AND LONG, LONG LOST.


TO LOOK...IT
COULD BE A
REGULAR
SPACE
SHIP.

IT'S SALVATION,
MY BOY...IF YOU
FIND WHAT WE'RE
SEEKING.




THIS UNIVERSE IS
A DEAD-END FOR
US, JASON...BUT
IT'S NOT THE ONLY
ONE! OUR CROSS-
TIME PROBES HAVE
PROVED THAT.

THERE ARE ALTERNATE UNIVERSES...
ALTERNATE REALITIES. INFINITE...AS
MANY AS THERE ARE POSSIBILITIES.



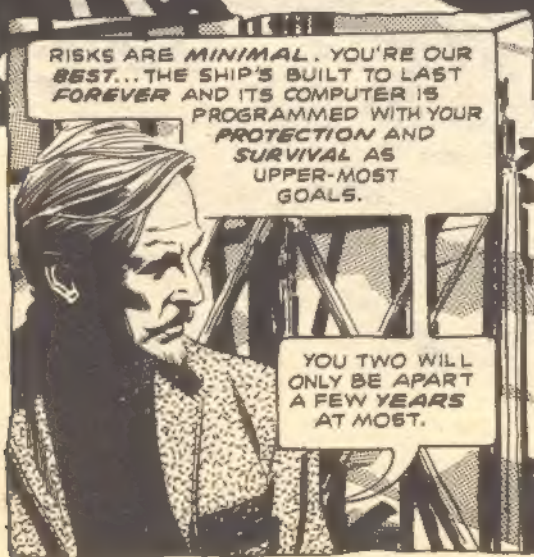
"ECOLOGICALLY EARTH IS DYING...IT
HAS A CENTURY OR TWO. NO MORE.
YET THE REST OF THE GALAXY
DOESN'T WANT US..."



...UNLESS YOU AND THE
SHIP FIND ONE FOR US
AMID THOSE ENDLESS
PARALLEL WORLDS.

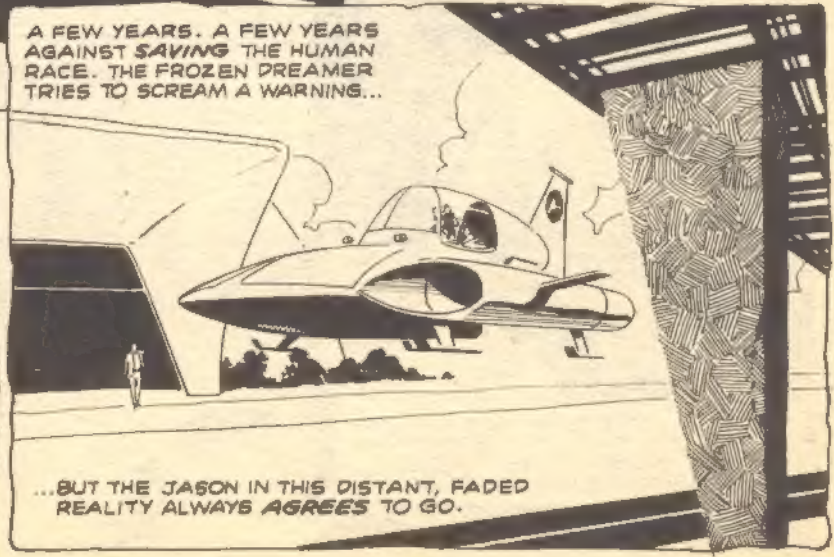
IF ONLY
LARA AND I
HAD HAD MORE
TIME TO-
GETHER...

"OUR NATURAL AGGRESSION AND TERRITORIAL DRIVE MAKE US A
THREAT...SO THEY KEEP US QUARANTINED IN OUR OWN SOLAR
SYSTEM. WE'VE NO WAY OUT, JASON..."



RISKS ARE MINIMAL. YOU'RE OUR
BEST...THE SHIP'S BUILT TO LAST
FOREVER AND ITS COMPUTER IS
PROGRAMMED WITH YOUR
PROTECTION AND
SURVIVAL AS
UPPER-MOST
GOALS.

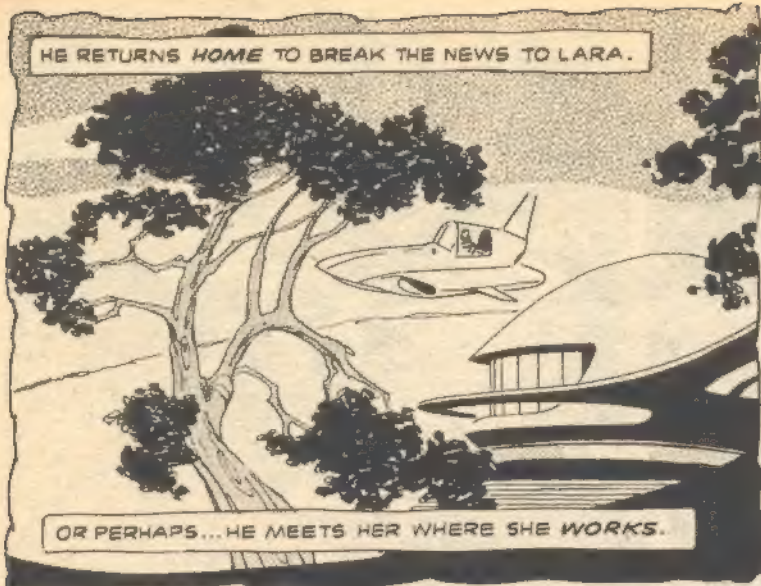
YOU TWO WILL
ONLY BE APART
A FEW YEARS
AT MOST.



A FEW YEARS. A FEW YEARS
AGAINST SAVING THE HUMAN
RACE. THE FROZEN DREAMER
TRIES TO SCREAM A WARNING...

...BUT THE JASON IN THIS DISTANT, FADED
REALITY ALWAYS AGREES TO GO.

HE RETURNS HOME TO BREAK THE NEWS TO LARA.



OR PERHAPS...HE MEETS HER WHERE SHE WORKS.

BITTERLY, THEY ARGUE AND FIGHT. OR PERHAPS... SHE CRIES AND HE OFFERS COMFORT, GENTLY STROKING HER SOFT BROWN HAIR.



OR IS IT RED?

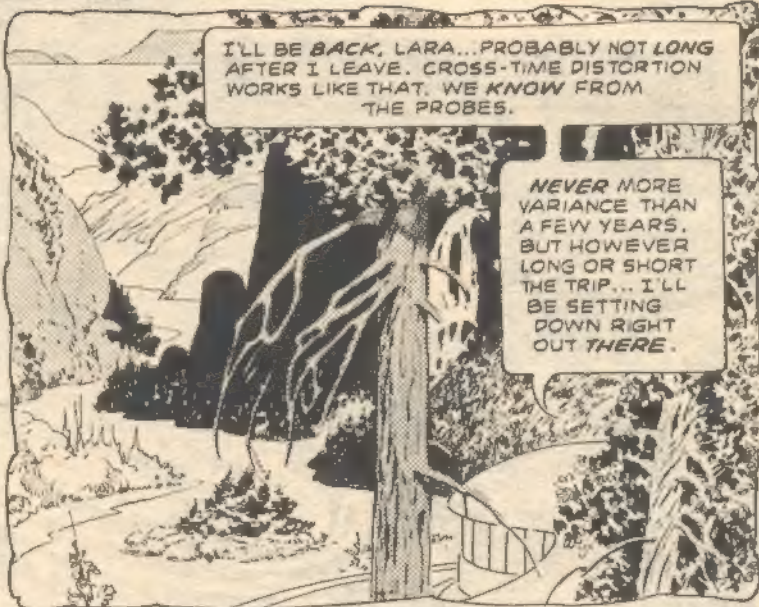
ONE THING IS CERTAIN...THE DECISION IS MADE.



BUT WHY SEND ANYONE? WHY NOT THE COMPUTER ALONE? THE OTHER PROBES--

MACHINES CAN INTERPRET, BUT THEY CAN'T FEEL. PICKING AN ALTERNATE UNIVERSE TO REPLACE THIS ONE HAS TO BE A HUMAN JUDGEMENT.

I'LL BE BACK, LARA...PROBABLY NOT LONG AFTER I LEAVE. CROSS-TIME DISTORTION WORKS LIKE THAT. WE KNOW FROM THE PROBES.



NEVER MORE VARIANCE THAN A FEW YEARS. BUT HOWEVER LONG OR SHORT THE TRIP... I'LL BE SETTING DOWN RIGHT OUT THERE.

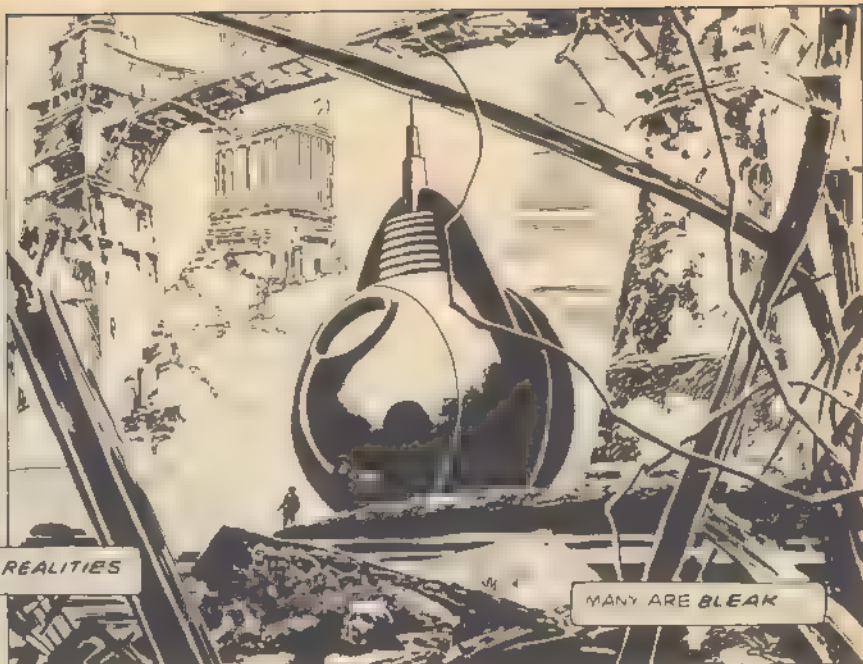
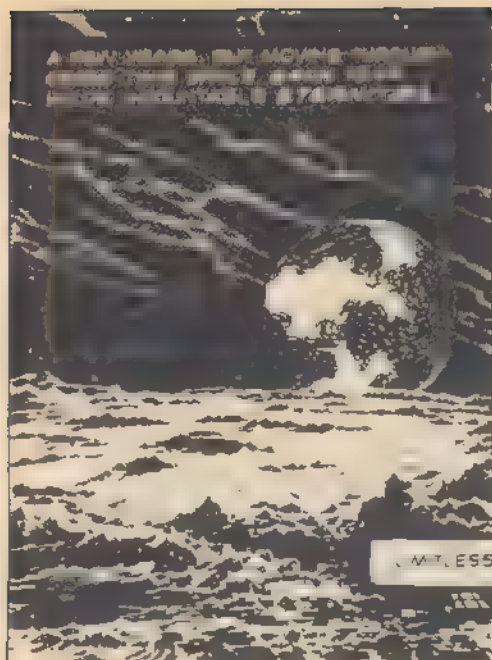
EVERYTHING ELSE CAN WAIT, LARA. WHEN I COME BACK...IT'S GOING TO BE DIRECTLY TO YOU.

...BUT ALWAYS IT IS FOR THEIR LAST NIGHT TOGETHER. WITH THE MORNING, THE GREAT SHIP ROARS INTO LIFE AND HE IS GONE...



THEY TURN, ENTERING THE STRUCTURE THAT IS SOMETIMES SYNTHETIC, SOMETIMES STONE, SOMETIMES A MILLION AND ONE OTHER SUBSTANCES...

...FOR A FEW YEARS.



...LESS REALITIES

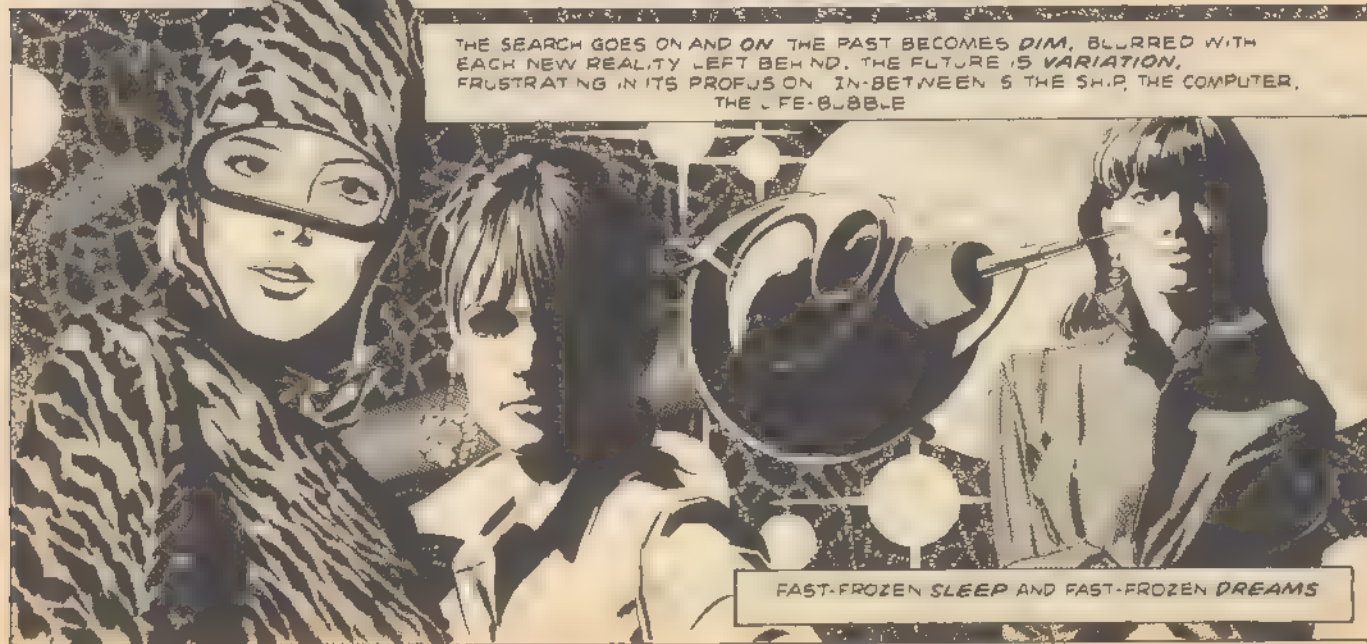
MANY ARE *BLEAK*

MORE ARE HOSTILE...



BACK INSIDE, JASON! THE WEAPONS ARE PENETRATING MY SHIELDS... WE'VE GOT TO FLEE!

THE SEARCH GOES ON AND ON THE PAST BECOMES DIM, BLURRED WITH EACH NEW REALITY LEFT BEHIND. THE FUTURE IS VARIATION, FRUSTRATING IN ITS PROFUSION IN-BETWEEN IS THE S.H.P. THE COMPUTER, THE L.F.E-BUBBLE



FAST-FROZEN SLEEP AND FAST-FROZEN DREAMS

THEN...SUCCESS.

IT'S PERFECT, COMPUTER...A PARADISE!
THE ONLY THING MISSING IS THE HUMAN RACE
AND WE'RE GOING TO SUPPLY THAT!

LET'S GO
HOME...FAST!

JASON I'M AFRAID
WE HAVE A PROBLEM.
ONE OF THOSE
ATTACKS WE
SUFFERED DID DAMAGE
TO MY AUTOMATIC-
HOMING UNIT.

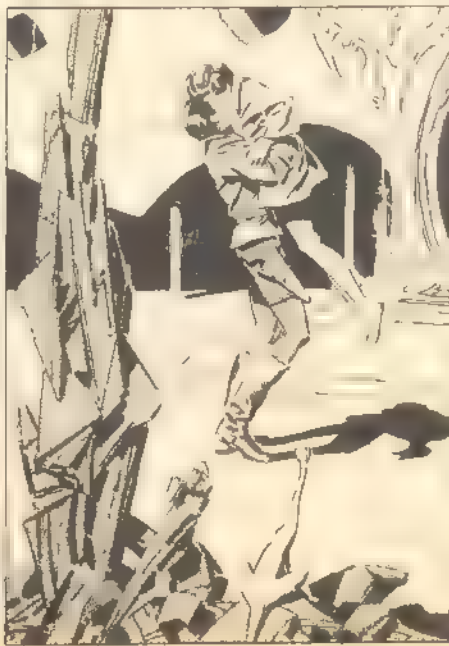
OUR RETURN
SETTING HAS
BEEN WIPED
AWAY

WHAT? HOW COULD
YOU KEEP THAT
SECRET FROM
ME?

FOR YOUR OWN PROTECTION, JASON
TO SAVE YOU DEPRESSION AND
DESPAIR FOR AS LONG AS I
COULD.

THERE WAS NO NEED TO
ABORT THE MISSION WE
CAN STILL RETURN WITHOUT
THE INSTRUMENTATION,
IT WILL JUST TAKE A
LITTLE LONGER, THAT'S
ALL

AND THE SHIP BEGINS ITS LONG LONG JOURNEY BACK. PAINFULLY STOPPING, EXPLORING EACH REALITY IN
DESPERATE HOPE THAT SOME DAY, ONE DAY...



...IT WILL BE THE RIGHT ONE.

SO JASON SLEEPS
HIS CY SLEEP AND
DREAMS HIS FROZEN
DREAMS

MOVING TOWARD THE NEXT STOP
IN THE LONG LONG JOURNEY
FAULTLESSLY CARRIED BY THE SHIP,
FLAWLESSLY PROTECTED BY THE
COMPUTER

THE SHIP HAS BEEN DESTROYED BY THE GUARDIAN
AGGRESSION

THE SHIP DOES NOT HAVE ITS SLEEPING CHARGE

SOMEWHERE ON A
BILLION WORLDS AHEAD,
A WOMAN NAMED LARA
LOOKS TO THE STARRY
NIGHT AND LONGS FOR
A MAN NAMED JASON
TO COME HOME

MEANWHILE UNTARNISHED SILVER-BRIGHT,
THE SHIP TRAVELS ON

AS ALWAYS

END

THE COMIC BOOKS

by Joe Brancatelli

THE COMIC-BOOK GRAPEVINE

An otherwise non-descript and rightfully ignored fanzine called *The Comic Reader* recently hit upon an uncharacteristically brilliant idea. Since there are now hundreds of shops which sell new comics and cater only to the comic-book fan, TCR editors reasoned, perhaps it might be wise to check on their sales. So, starting in *The Comic Reader* #169, the editors began a monthly canvass of 20 of these comic shops. The purpose? To gauge the monthly sales of newly released comic books.

And, as they say in the funny papers, WHAM-O. Instant indispensability. For years, TCR has been limping along with a rather tawdry mixture of sanitized "news" about comic books, a barely disguised pilfering of media blurbs from *Variety* and a collection of reprints of syndicated comic strips, most of which we could have lived without the first time around. But with the addition of the top-selling comics list, TCR becomes an invaluable aid to anyone who follows the fortunes of Marvel, DC, Warren, Gold Key and the rest, Key and the rest.

Although construing the TCR list as anything even approaching an accurate reflection of total comic-book sales would be a grievous error—comic fans are not reflective of the general comic-buying public—the compilation will be tremendously helpful in many ways.

For one thing, it will give us a better idea of exactly how important "organized" fandom is to a certain title's long-term success or failure. For another, it will shed light on fan-buying habits, something that is almost as unpredictable as the buying habits of the average comic buyer who purchases comics in drug stores, supermarkets or newsstands. And lastly, it will probably give an advance warning about upcoming trends and fads and soon-to-be-dead comic crazes.



As a point of interest, the TCR list may also become the most accurate public accounting of comic-book sales, too. At least in its own narrow area. Until now, the only publically reported title-by-title accounting of comic sales has been the statements publishers are required to file with the Postal Service. Unfortunately, those filings are 80 per cent fantasy. More often than not, because of the nation's archaic distribution system, publishers are forced to "estimate" (read: guess) at sales figures.)

In the first TCR listing, 93 titles were covered. The bestseller, Marvel's *The Micronauts*, sold 3,183 copies at the 20 participating comic shops. The lowest seller, Charlton's *Secret Romance*, sold eight copies. The top 20 titles, all M releases, each sold at 1,612 copies. Among the top 20 were *X-Men* (2,640 copies), *Amazing Spider-Man* (2,958), *Fantastic Four* (2,400) and *Thor* (1,705).

The first DC title didn't appear on the list until number 21. It was *Warlord* (1,611 copies). The next DC title, *DC Comics Presents*, was 29th with sales of 1,164 copies. Most of the other DC comics fell between

30th and 60th on the list, including *Superman* (32nd place, 1,025 copies), *Action* (35th, 947), *Wonder Woman* (42nd, 753) and *Super Friends* (53rd, 271).

DC's worst seller, among the fans, was *Ghosts* (61th, 190). Marvel's worst were *Sgt. Fury* (63rd, 168) and the *Crazy* black-and-white humor magazine (73rd, 71).

Three Warren titles were on the TCR list. *Eerie* placed 50th with 313 copies sold; *Creepy* was 52nd with 308 copies sold and *Warren Presents: The Rook* placed 56th with sales of 225 copies.

Quite frankly, I expected the Warren books to have done better among the fans whose purchases are reflected in this sales list. What the Warren books' low sales among the fans means is that, on a percentage basis, the Warren books garner a bigger portion of their sales from newsstands and other traditional non-fan outlets than do books from Marvel or DC.

Now whether that situation is better or worse for Warren is something that's fair game for interpretation. My guess is that it is better to get the bulk of your sales from the traditional outlets rather than these fan shops. My guess is that the traditional outlets, buoyed by the sales of the other mass-circulation magazines like

Time, *Playboy* and whatever, are more reliable than the fan shops. The fan shops, a relatively recent phenomenon, are generally shoestring, fly-by-night, as-the-spirit-moved-the-proprietor operations. They've yet to compete for business in economic down times. Newsstands, no matter how shakily, seem to survive. I'm not so sure comic shops can stand the test of time.

On the other hand, both DC and Marvel have actively courted the 300 or so comic shops that have sprung up. In fact, according to sources at both Marvel and DC, these comic shops sometimes account for double-digit percentages of a comic book's total retail sales. Marvel's sales to these shops—called direct sales, because no returns of unsold books are allowed, which is not the case with normal distributors—have become so sophisticated the company now codes the covers to differentiate between comic-shop sales and normal distributor sales.

With all this in mind, it's not surprising to see all the Gold Key and Charlton books fill up the last 30 or so positions in the TCR listing. Since both companies are almost exclusively newsstand-oriented, their sales in comic shops would naturally be lower. Some Gold Key titles that only sold 50 or 60 copies through these fan outlets are, in fact, among the few good sellers on the newsstands.

As future TCR listings are compiled and published, I'll keep you up to date on any intriguing developments. In the meantime, however, I urge you to subscribe to TCR in support of the fanzine's efforts in this category. But ignore everything else in the magazine because, once you get past the comic-sales lists, the material is hardly worth your time.

The *Comic Reader*, a monthly, is \$9 a year (\$4.75 for six issues) from Street Enterprises, Post Office Box 225, Menomonee Falls, Wis. 53051. Sample copies are \$1 each.

FRENCH MOROCCO, 1930. THE SANDS OF THE SAHARA ARE AN ANVIL FOR THE MERCILESS POUNDING OF THE AFRICAN SUN, YET MEN LIVE HERE... AND FIGHT HERE. FOR NOMADIC BERBER TRIBESMEN, IT IS THEIR HOME. FOR FRANCE'S *LÉGION ÉTRANGÈRE*, IT IS THEIR JOB. AND FOR ONE FOREIGN VOLUNTEER DOING THAT JOB, IT IS THE LAST PLACE HE CAN PRACTICE HIS

WARRIOR'S RITUAL

THE RELIEF COLUMN HAS BEEN TURNED BACK TWICE. NOW AT LAST, THE HEAVY TAUREG RESISTANCE IS BROKEN. THREE WEEKS DELAYED, MAJOR HERGE AND HIS LEGIONAIRES STARE THROUGH SHIMMERING HEAT WAVES AT FORT DU SANG. AS THE DESERT WIND STINGS THEIR NOSTRILS WITH THE RIPE SCENT OF DEATH.

LOOK AT THOSE VULTURES...! WE ARE TOO LATE, SR!

BUT THE FLAG STILL FLIES, LIEUTENANT GIRAUD

TAKE A MAN AND INVESTIGATE. I'LL HAVE OUR SCOUTS CIRCLE AROUND TO THE REAR.

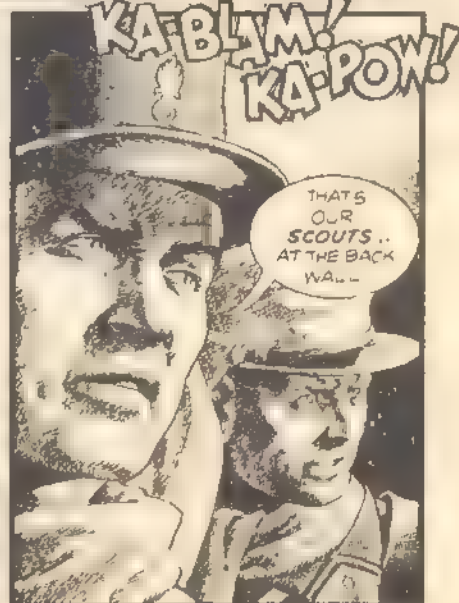
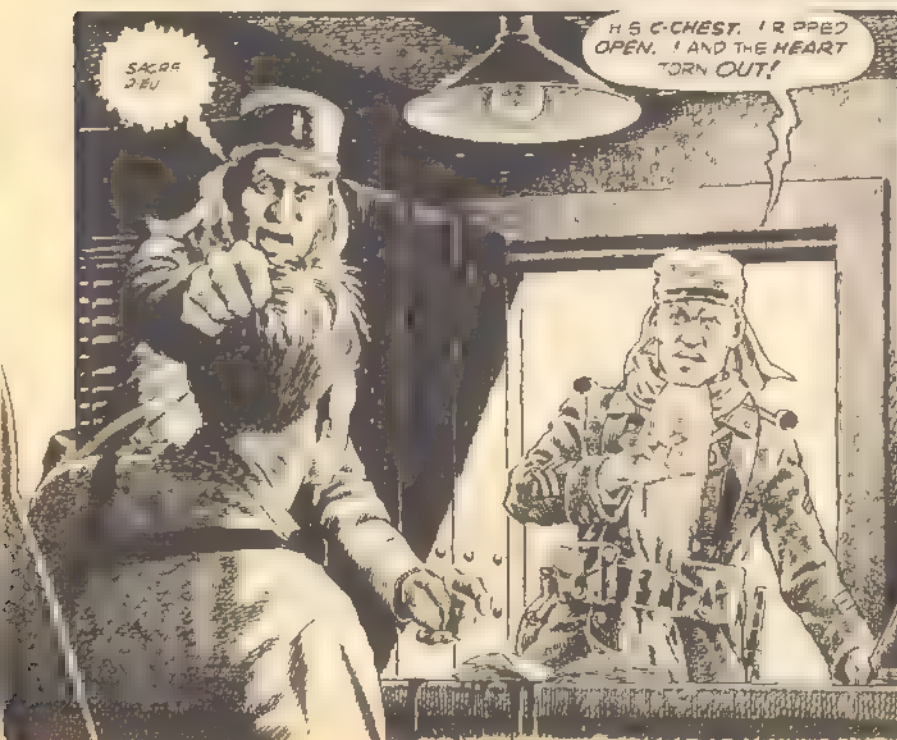
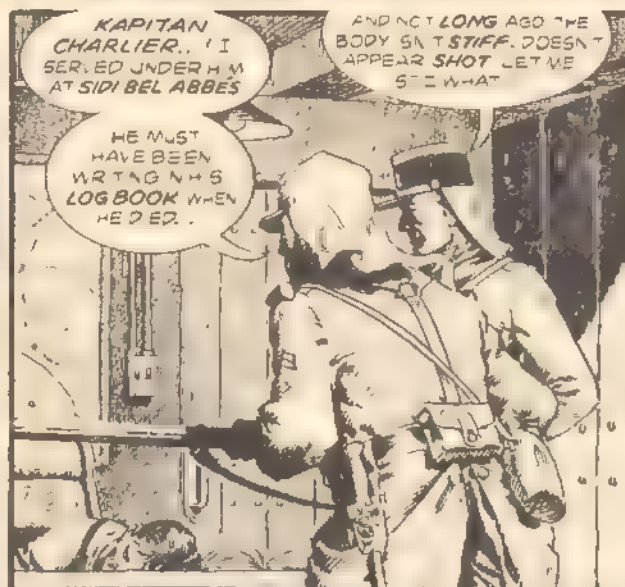


CARRION EATERS, GORGED AND ARROGANT, STIR AS THE MEN ADVANCE, BUT DO NOT FLEE. FROM THE FORT, THERE IS ONLY STILLNESS OPPRESSIVE. UNNATURAL

TROOPS ON THE PARAPETS ARE ALL DEAD. GATES STILL BOLTED FROM WITH-IN...!

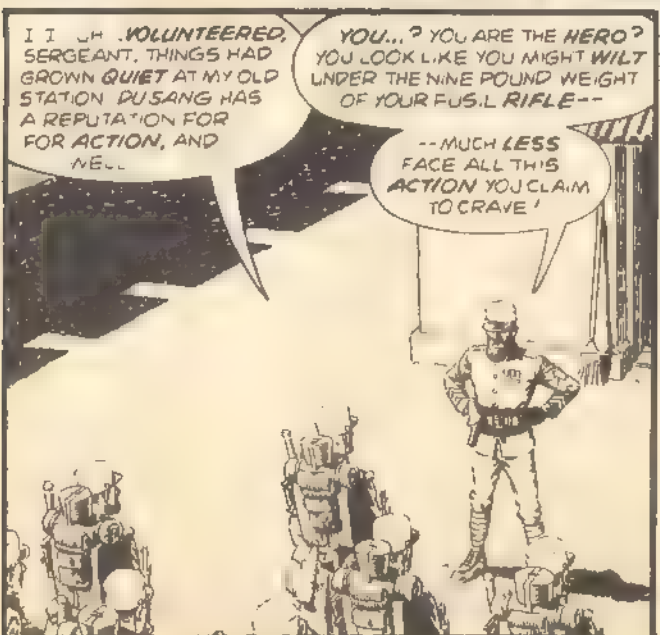
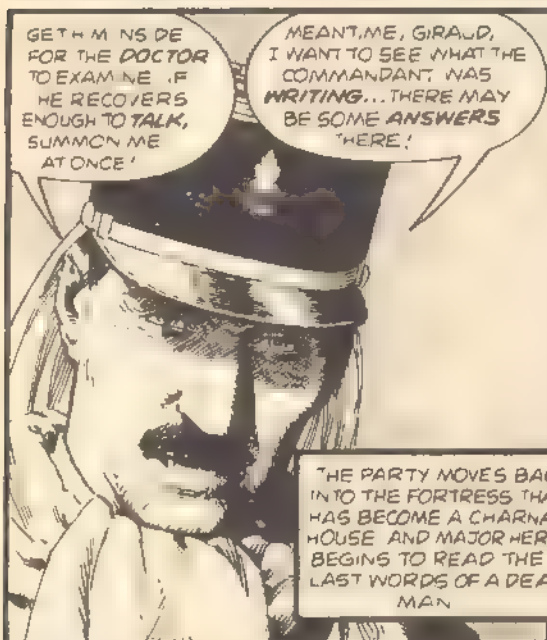
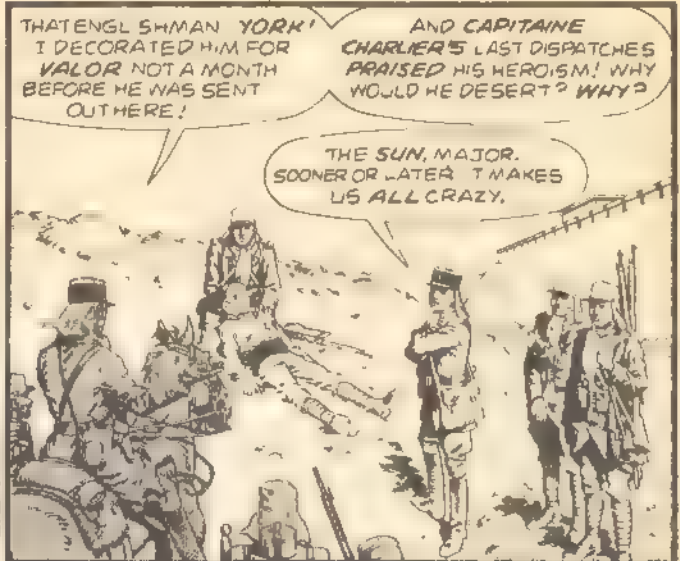
COME ON, KOLB; WE'LL HAVE TO SCALE THE WALL.







SUCH IS THE QUESTION MAJOR HERGE ASKS HIMSELF AS HE IS SUMMONED TO THE SCENE...



"AND WITH YORK'S FIRST PATROL, MONSIEUR SARGEANT'S FEELINGS APPEARED JUSTIFIED

WHAT THE DEVIL--P! ENGLISHMAN! YOU STUPID--

THAT'S WHAT THE TAUREG'S WANT... YOU PLAY INTO THEIR HANDS!

KRAK!

"BUT YORK WAS GONE, VANISHING INTO SHOTS AND DISTANT SHOUTING. THEN LONG, LONG QUIET.

BIEN! YOU SEE THE FATE OF HEROES OUT HERE! OBEY ME... I WILL TELL YOU WHEN TO BE BRAVE! I WILL--

S-SERGEANT...

"YORK HAD RETURNED, CARRYING KAFFIYEH'S --TAKEN FROM THE ENEMY AS PROOF OF HIS KILLS..

AS IF ANY WERE NEEDED WHEN HIS UNIFORM AND VERY BODY WERE SOAKED WITH TAUREG BLOOD!

"THIS STRANGE ENGLISHMAN'S FEROCITY WAS NO FLUKE. TIME AFTER TIME HE DISTINGUISHED HIMSELF, ALWAYS READY... ALWAYS VOLUNTEERING ..

"BUT DURING PERIODS OF QUIET, WHEN TAUREG ACTIVITY WOULD FALL OFF HE GREW NERVOUS, UNEASY -- TENSION AND STRAIN MOUNTING WITHIN HIM.

"THEN, AFTER A PARTICULARLY LONG PERIOD WITHOUT ATTACKS OR CHALLENGING OF OUR PATROLS ..

NOM DU CHIEN! YORK'S BED IS EMPTY.. OUR LITTLE HERO HAS BECOME A DESERTER!

HELT, BECAUSE YORK HAD AN INSERTED, PROBABLY SOUGHT OF THAT WASH SEEMED TO BE NECESSARY TO REQUIRE

COCHON! YOU FLAUNT REGULATIONS. UNDERMINE DISCIPLINE!

"YET IN THE WEEKS HE HAD BEEN WITH US, HIS COURAGE WAS AN INSPIRATION TO THE OTHER MEN. I RECOMMENDED LIGHT PUNISHMENT.

"AND YORK RETURNED TO HIS BUNK, CALMER THAN BEFORE THIS LATE NIGHT FORAY, STANDING TALLER, LIKE A MAN RENEWED.

"AND, WELL, PERHAPS, THAT HE WAS. FOR LIKE A STORM BUILDING AT SEA BEFORE IT SWEEPS IN TO REAP DESTRUCTION ON THE LAND, SO THE TALPES HAD BEEN GATHERING STRENGTH AND INCREASING THEIR ARMS...



"...AT LAST, THE TARPES ENEMY...
AND THE TARPES ENEMY...

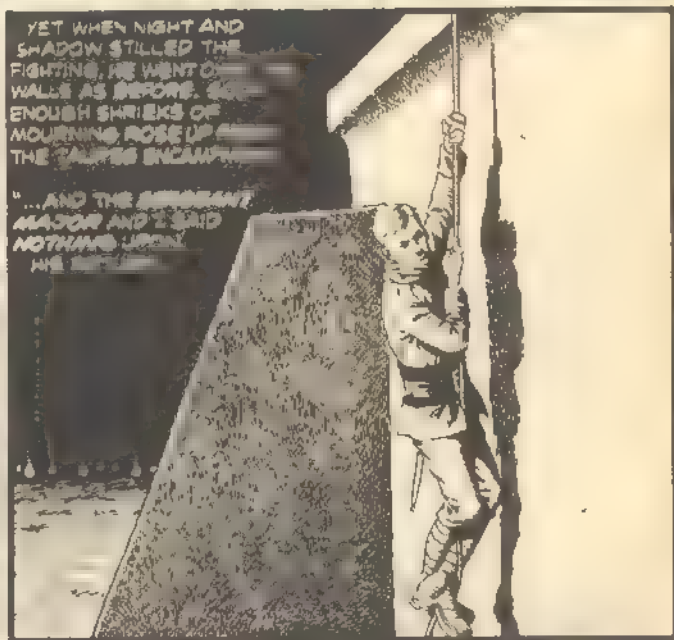
"OBVIOUSLY, YORK PREFERRED TO SEEK OUT THE ENEMY ALONE. I WONDERED HOW HE WOULD FARE--FORCED BY THE SITUATION--SHOULDER-TO-SHOULDER WITH HIS FELLOW LEGIONAIRES.



"BUT HE WAS THE PICTURE OF COURAGE.. LEADING A SQUAD IN REPELLING AN ATTEMPT TO BLOW UP THE FRONT GATES

YET WHEN NIGHT AND SHADOW STILLED THE FIGHTING, HE WENT ON WALLS AS BEFORE. SO ENOUGH SHRIEKS OF MOURNING ROSE UP THE TALPES ENEMY.

"...AND THE SERGEANT MAJOR AND I SAID NOTHING UPON HIS RETURN.



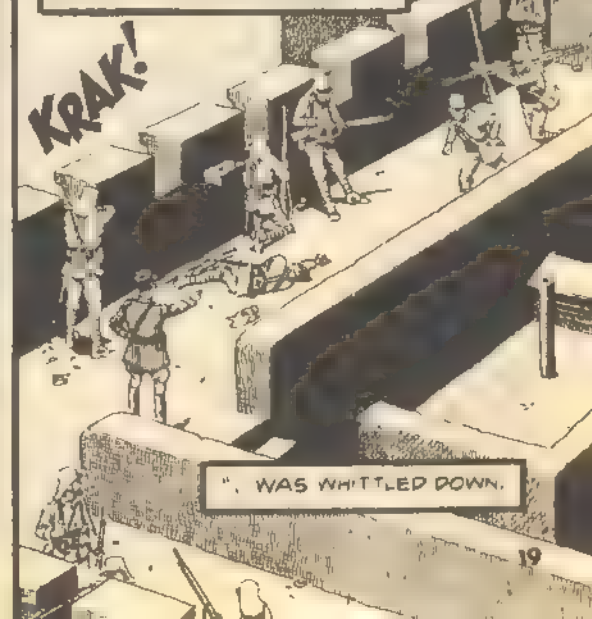
"DAWN BROUGHT RENEWED ATTACK. BUT NO WILD CHARGES, NO FURIOUS ASSAULTS. NOW THE TRIBESMEN TIGHTENED THEIR HOLD AND FOUGHT FROM COVER.



"HEAVY, STEADY FIRE HAMMERED THE FORT ROUND AFTER ROUND, DAY AFTER DAY.

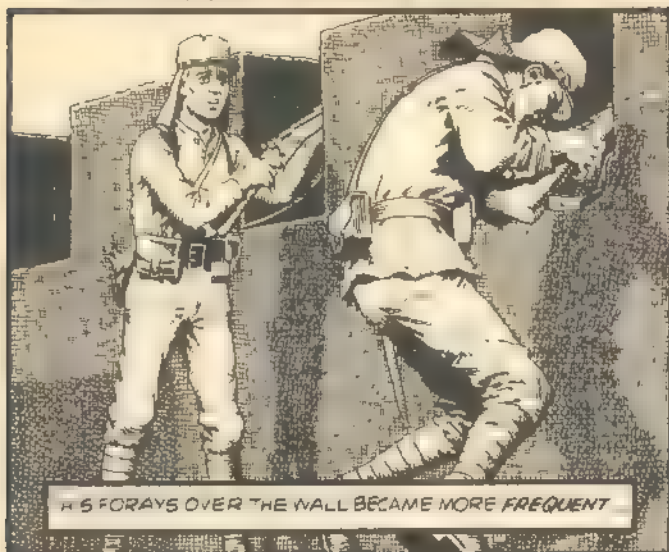


SUPPLIES RAN LOW. FOOD, AMMUNITION WERE RATIONED AND ONE BY ONE MY LITTLE GARRISON.



"... WAS WHITTLED DOWN.

"NOW THE STRAIN OF SEGE GRIPPED US ALL. IT'S A SITUATION WHEN THE BRAVEST MEN BEGIN TO CRUMBLE.. AND THE SIGNS WERE CLEARLY ON YORK



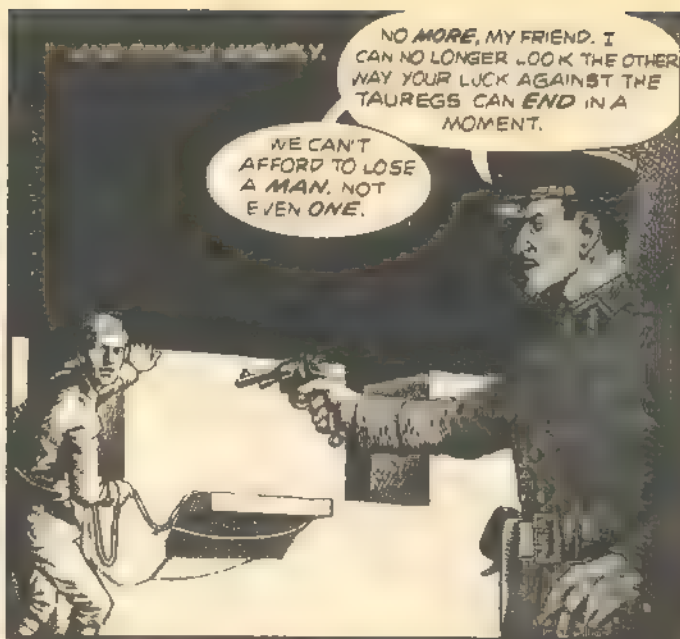
AS FORAYS OVER THE WALL BECAME MORE FREQUENT



PLEASE, CAPTAIN CHARLIER... YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND! I MUST GO OUT I MUST! IF I DON'T I I MIGHT MIGHT

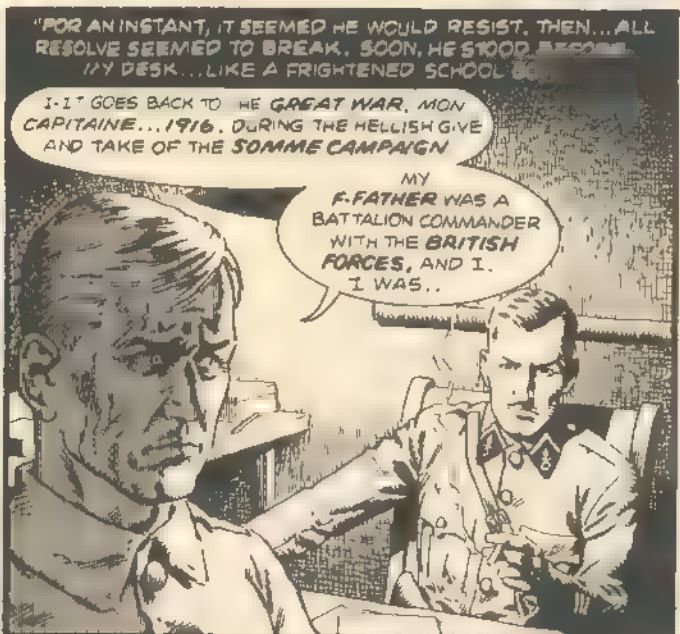
FOR GOD'S SAKE DON'T MAKE ME TELL YOU! JUST LET ME GO!

IF YOU HAVE REASONS, I'LL LISTEN TO THEM, YORK... IN MY OFFICE.



NO MORE, MY FRIEND. I CAN NO LONGER LOOK THE OTHER WAY YOUR LUCK AGAINST THE TAUREGS CAN END IN A MOMENT.

WE CAN'T AFFORD TO LOSE A MAN, NOT EVEN ONE.



"FOR AN INSTANT, IT SEEMED HE WOULD RESIST. THEN... ALL RESOLVE SEEMED TO BREAK. SOON, HE STOOD BEFORE MY DESK... LIKE A FRIGHTENED SCHOOL BOY"

I-IT GOES BACK TO THE GREAT WAR, MON CAPITAINE... 1916, DURING THE HELLISH GIVE AND TAKE OF THE SOMME CAMPAIGN

MY F-FATHER WAS A BATTALION COMMANDER WITH THE BRITISH FORCES, AND I... I WAS...



A GREAT, BLOODY COWARD!

SCREAMING AND CRYING DURING THE BARRAGES... HIDING BEFORE AN ATTACK! IF YOU WEREN'T MY OWN SON YOU'D BE IN FRONT OF A FIRING SQUAD!



ALL I EVER WANTED IN LIFE WAS TO PLEASE YOU, FATHER. B-BUT NO MATTER HOW HARD I TRY... I CAN'T STAND THIS! I TRY... BUT I CAN'T!

I-I VOW... I SWEAR THAT NEXT TIME, I'LL STAND. I'LL FIGHT! BUT WHEN THE MOMENT COMES... I CAN'T FIND THE COURAGE!

IT'S NOT A LOST COLLAR BUTTON... YOU DON'T FIND IT! EVERY MAN MAKES HIS OWN COURAGE.. ANY BLASTED WAY HE CAN!

FROM THE FIRST PRIMITIVES WHO TORE THE HEART OUT OF A SLAIN WARRIOR AND ATE IT TO GAIN STRENGTH AND COURAGE

„THAT'S BEEN THE WAY OF IT!“

WHOMP!

WHOMP!

WHOMP!

WHOMP!

WHOMP!

AND THESE, APPARENTLY, WERE THE LAST WORDS YORK EVER HEARD HIS FATHER SAY

FOR IN THE NEXT MOMENTS, THE GERMAN EIGHTY-EIGHTS ALL BUT OBLITERATED THE BRITISH POSITION!



THE BUNKER'S CAVED-IN! WE'LL DIE IN HERE! STARVE... SUFFOCATE...!

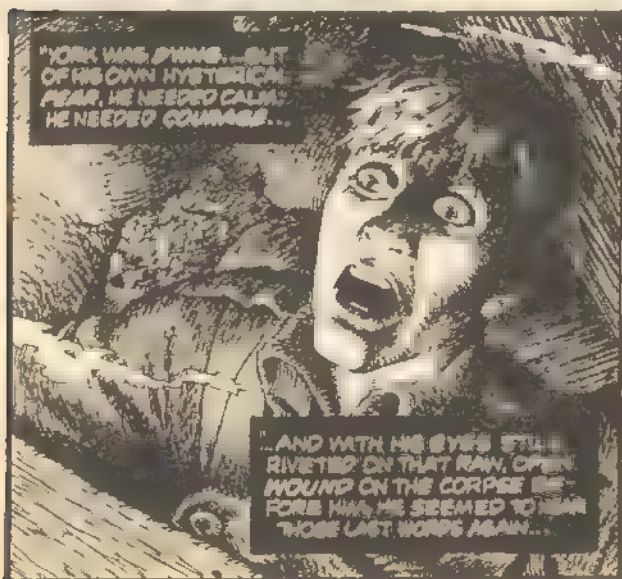
CAN'T YOU HEAR ME? I SAID WE'LL



IT WAS THEN THAT YORK NOTICED THE GREAT, GAYNE WHEEL THAT HAD BORN HIS BROTHER'S CHEST...

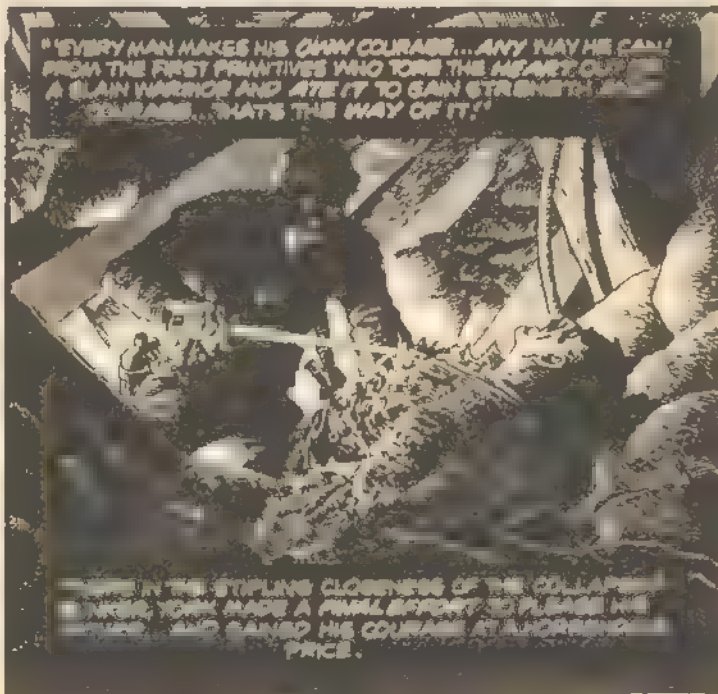
"AND IT WAS THEN, ACCORDING TO HIS STORY, THE BOY WENT MAD. HE COULD FEEL HIS LUNGS COLLAPSING FROM LACK OF AIR; HIS TONGUE TURNING THICK AND BLACK FROM THIRST, HIS STOMACH SHRIVELLING FOR WANT OF FOOD

"YORK WAS SHAKING... BUT OF HIS OWN HYSTERICAL FEAR, HE NEEDED CALM; HE NEEDED COURAGE..."

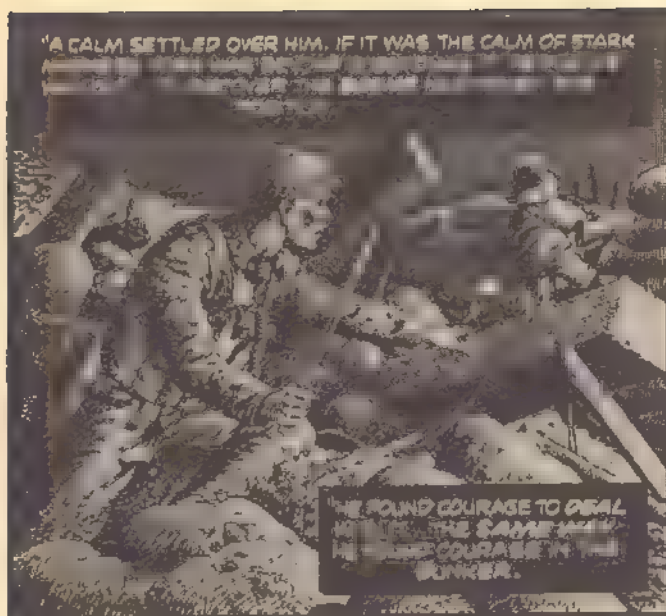


...AND WITH HIS EYES STILL RIVETED ON THAT RAW, OPEN WOUND ON THE CORPSE BEFORE HIM, HE SEEMED TO HEAR THOSE LAST WORDS AGAIN...

"EVERY MAN MAKES HIS OWN COURAGE... ANY WAY HE CAN! FROM THE FIRST PRIMITIVES WHO TORE THE HEART OUT OF A SLAIN WARRIOR AND ATE IT TO GAIN STRENGTH AND COURAGE... THAT'S THE WAY OF IT!"



IN THE STIFLING CLOSING OF THE COLLAPSED BUNKER, YORK MADE A FINAL EFFORT TO PLEASE HIS FATHER... AND GAINED HIS COURAGE AT AN AWKWARD PRICE.



"A CALM SETTLED OVER HIM. IF IT WAS THE CALM OF STARK

HE FOUND COURAGE TO DEAL
THE SAME WAY
HE FOUND COURAGE IN THE
BUNKER.

"WHENEVER THE CALMNESS BEGAN TO FADE... THE OLD
TERRORS START TO RETURN... HE WOULD USE HIS
BAYONET AND STEAL MORE COURAGE FROM THE SLAIN.
HE FOUGHT HIS WAY TO ALLIED LINES...

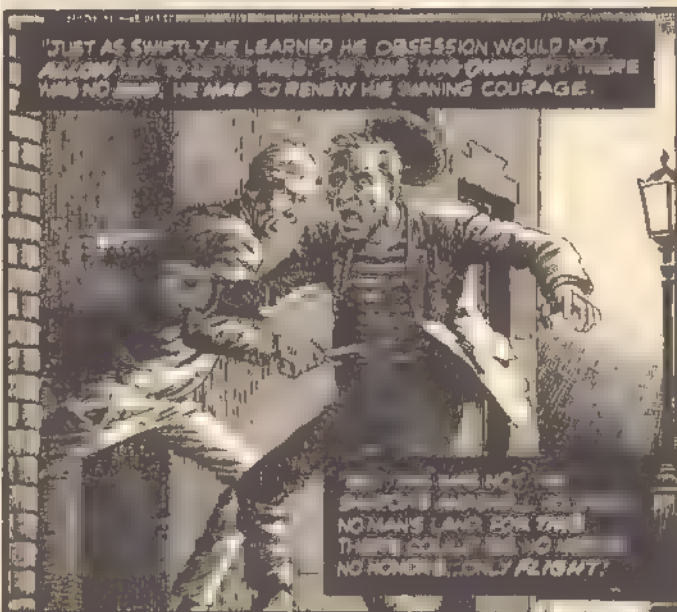


AND FINISHED OUT THE WAR WITH AWARDS
FOR DISTINGUISHED SERVICE FROM HIS
REGIMENT.



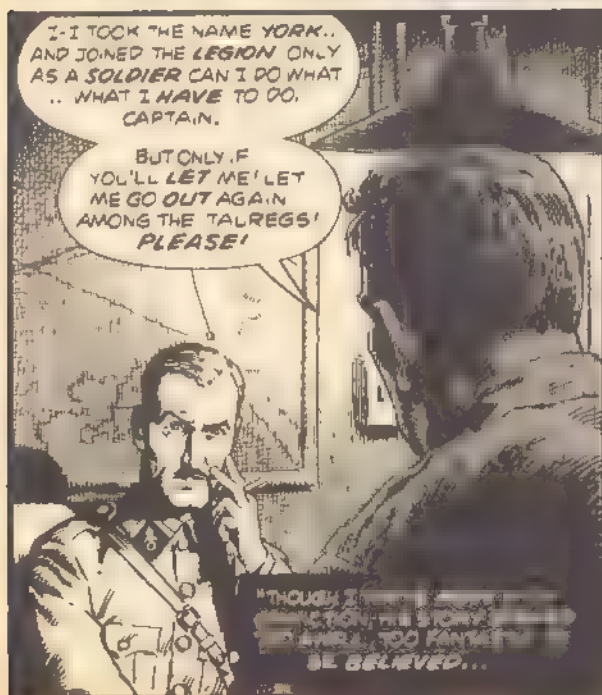
BUT COURAGE IS NOT A
QUALITY FOR WAR ALONE.
THERE ARE NEEDS FOR IT IN
EVERY ASPECT OF LIFE...

... AS YORK SWIFTLY
FOUND IN PEACETIME
ENGLAND.



"JUST AS SWIFTLY HE LEARNED HIS OBSESSION WOULD NOT
ALLOW HIM TO LET IT PASS. THE WAR WAS OVER BUT THERE
WAS NO... HE HAD TO RENEW HIS BURNING COURAGE.

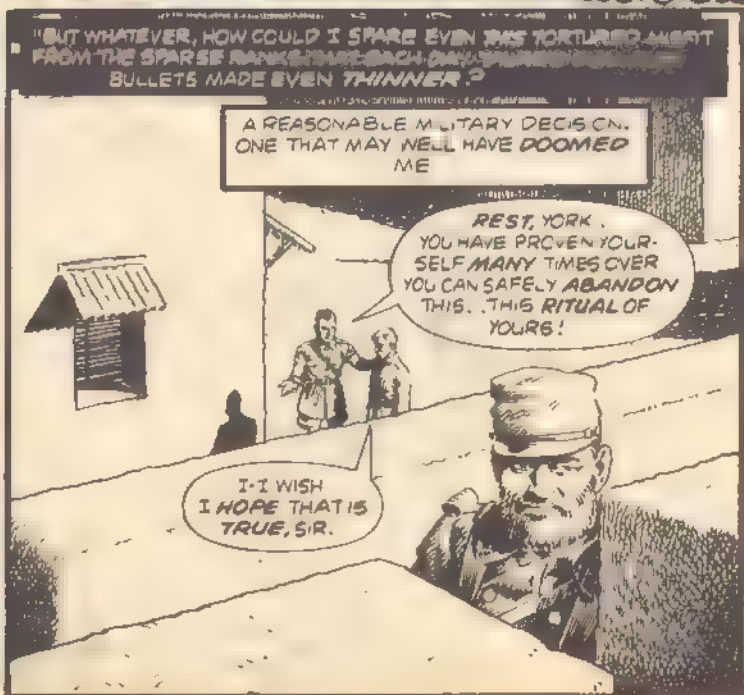
HE HAD NO
SPORE...
NO MAN'S LAND FOR THE
THERE COULD BE NO...
NO HONOR... ONLY FLIGHT!



"I-I TOOK THE NAME YORK...
AND JOINED THE LEGION ONLY
AS A SOLDIER CAN I DO WHAT
... WHAT I HAVE TO DO,
CAPTAIN.

BUT ONLY IF
YOU'LL LET ME LET
ME GO OUT AGAIN
AMONG THE TALREGS!
PLEASE!

"THOUGH I...
STORY...
TOO MANY...
BE BELIEVED...



"BUT WHATEVER, HOW COULD I SPARE EVEN THE TORTURED MIST
FROM THE SPARSE RANKS EACH DAY...
BULLETS MADE EVEN THINNER?

A REASONABLE MILITARY DECISION.
ONE THAT MAY WELL HAVE DOOMED
ME

REST, YORK...
YOU HAVE PROVEN YOUR-
SELF MANY TIMES OVER
YOU CAN SAFELY ABANDON
THIS... THIS RITUAL OF
YOURS!

I-I WISH
I HOPE THAT IS
TRUE, SIR.

THE NEXT DAY WAS BAD. THOSE THAT FOLLOWED WERE EVEN WORSE. THE COCKROACH OF FEAR CRAWLED THROUGH THE BELLY AND BRAIN OF US ALL.

NO! IN THE NAME OF GOD, YORK NO!

I TRIED, CAPITAINE, BUT THE WORSE OUR SITUATION GETS THE MORE I NEED THIS!

BESIDES HE WAS ALREADY DEAD.

IT WAS A TIME FOR MEN TO DRAW ON THE WELLS OF COURAGE AND STAMINA THEY SELDOM REALIZE THEY POSSESS

BEAST! BAD ENOUGH YOU WOULD DO THIS OBSCENITY TO OUR ENEMIES...! BUT TO YOUR OWN COMRADES!

YOU ARE A MONSTER, YORK AND I SHALL SEE YOU DEAD!

BUT THE TAUREGS HAD DECREED OTHERWISE...

DAYLIGHT'S BREAKING, MON COMMANDANT! I CAN SEE THEIR RIFLEMEN GETTING READY TO--

AAAGGH!

BWEEEEE

...BY NOON ONLY YORK AND I SURVIVED, STUFFING DEAD MEN BACK INTO THEIR POSITIONS SO THE BESEIGERS COULD NOT GUESS HOW CLOSE THEY WERE TO VICTORY.

POW!

POW!

KRAK!

COURAGE CAME HARDER WITH EACH PASSING HOUR

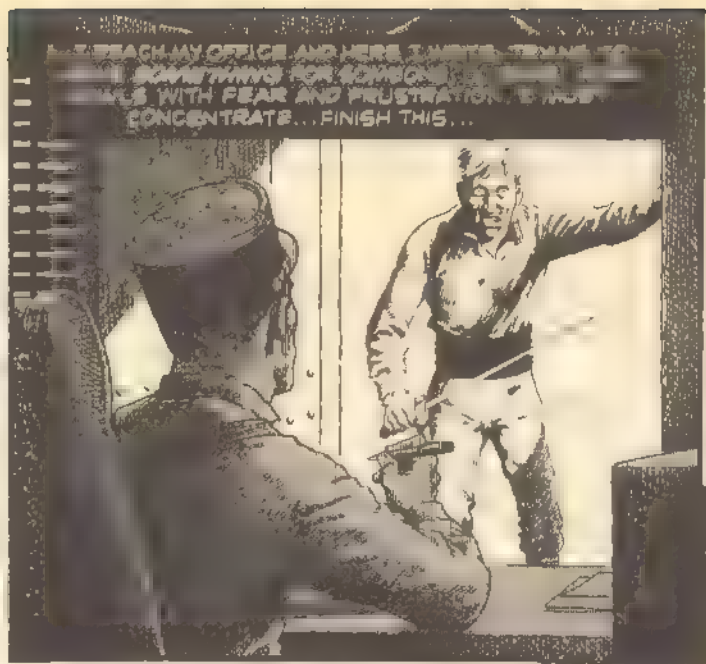
AND THE LENGTH OF TIME FOR WHICH YORK'S TERRIBLE RITUAL WOULD SUSTAIN HIM GREW SHORTER AND SHORTER.

"IN DIRECT PROPORTION, HIS FEAR AND DESPERATION SWELLED, FORCING THE TERRIBLE CYCLE ONWARD, EVER BRIEFER, EVER MORE VICIOUS.

DANN COMES WITHOUT GUN/RE PERHAPS THE TAUREGS
HAVE WITHDRAWN. PERHAPS IT IS A TRICK. TOO LITTLE SLEEP,
TOO LITTLE FOOD. TOO MUCH SUN HAVE LEFT ME WEAK.
UNABLE TO CHECK WATER.



UP ON THE BATTLEMENTS, YORK WORKS
WITH HIS BAYONET THERE CAN BE FEW
BODIES LEFT UNTOUCHED. THE THOUGHT
FORCES ME TO MOVE



TEACH MY OFFICE AND HERE I HAVE TRAINED TO
DO SOMETHING FOR SOMEONE. I HAVE
LIVES WITH FEAR AND FRUSTRATION. I MUST
CONCENTRATE... FINISH THIS...



I CANNOT
BE I CANNOT BE
A MAN I MYSELF
DECORATED

MAJOR!
THE PRISONER,
YORK, HAS
ESCAPED!



THE DOCTOR HAD TO
LEAVE HIM A MOMENT
HE MUST HAVE REGAINED
CONSCIOUSNESS AND
FLIED' LEAPED OFF A
PARAPET AND RAN..!




INTO THE DESERT ? AT
MID-DAY ? WITH BULLET
WOUNDS ? TO KEEP GOING
OUT THERE THAT MONSTER
WILL NEED ALL THE
COURAGE HE CAN...

MAJOR HERGÉ
SUDDENLY CHOKES
ON HIS WORDS

THE VULTURES LEAD THEM TO YORK BUT CANNOT
PREPARE THEM FOR WHAT THEY FIND. BUT
WHAT TRULY COULD ? EVEN HARDENED VETERANS
CAN BE TESTED BY THE SIGHT..



OF A HERO OF THE LEGION WHO HAS DIED TRYING
TO RIP OUT AND DEVOUR HIS OWN BEATING HEART!



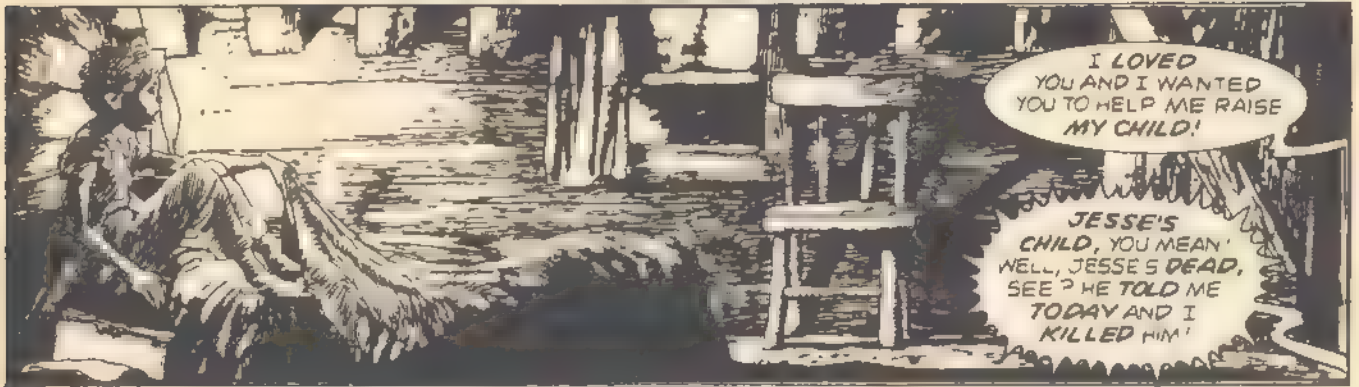
YOU AIN'T MY
KID! YOU HEAR ME?
YOU AIN'T MY GODDAM
KID! YOU HEAR WHAT
I'M SAYIN'? YOU AIN'T
NOBODY'S KID! YOU
HEAR ME?

NOBODY'S KID



YOU TOLD ME HE WAS MINE! YOU WAS LYIN' ALL THESE YEARS! YOU AND MY BROTHER JESSE-- WHY?

I WAS FRIGHTENED--
ASHAMED--CONFUSED
-I DON'T KNOW!



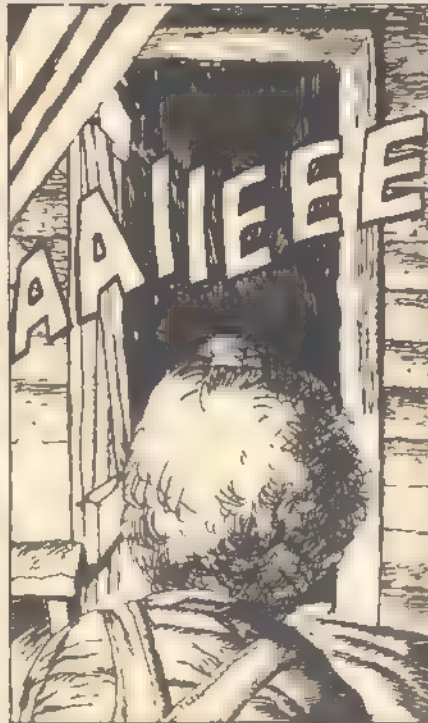
I LOVED YOU AND I WANTED YOU TO HELP ME RAISE MY CHILD!

JESSE'S CHILD, YOU MEAN! WELL, JESSE'S DEAD, SEE? HE TOLD ME TODAY AND I KILLED HIM!



YOU--
YOU
KILLED HIM?

RIGHT WHERE HE STOOD! USED MY AX. JUST LIKE THIS!



AAIEEEEE



NOW FOR YOUR BASTARD!



STILL AWAKE N THERE?

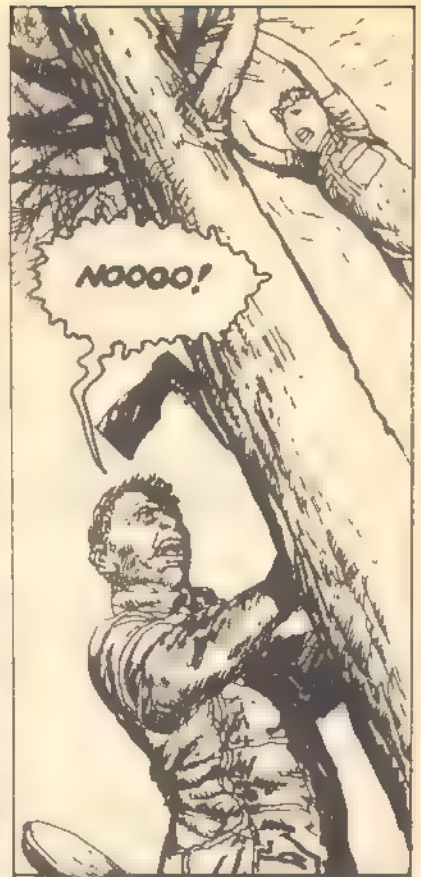












THE PLAYERS CAPTIVATED WERE THE 8-12 YEAR
OLD BOYS. I ASKED THEM IF THEY EVEN SAW
THEY HAD THE NAME REPLIC



RELIC



MAYBE WE TOOK
A **WRONG TURN**
SOMEWHERE.

NOT A CHANCE **THIS**
IS THE PLACE, A ONE
PLANET SYSTEM **MINUS**
THE PLANET.



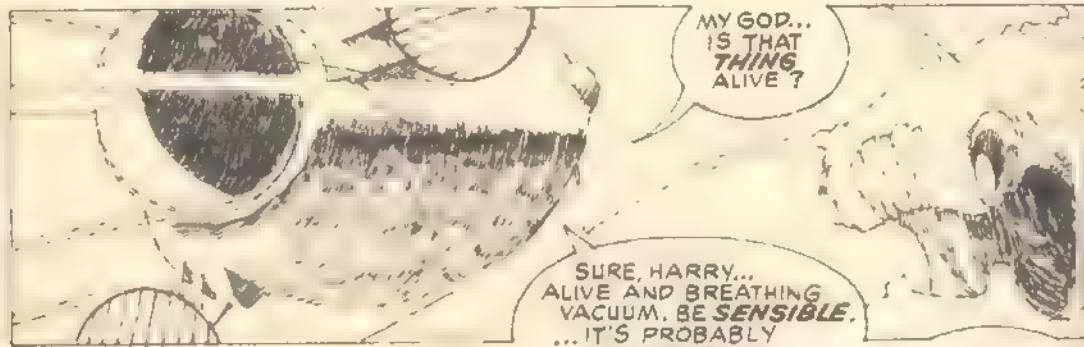
COULD **RELIC**
HAVE EXPLODED?

IT'S
POSSIBLE...
BUT I DON'T
SEE ANY
WRECKAGE
FLOATING
AROUND.
DO YOU?



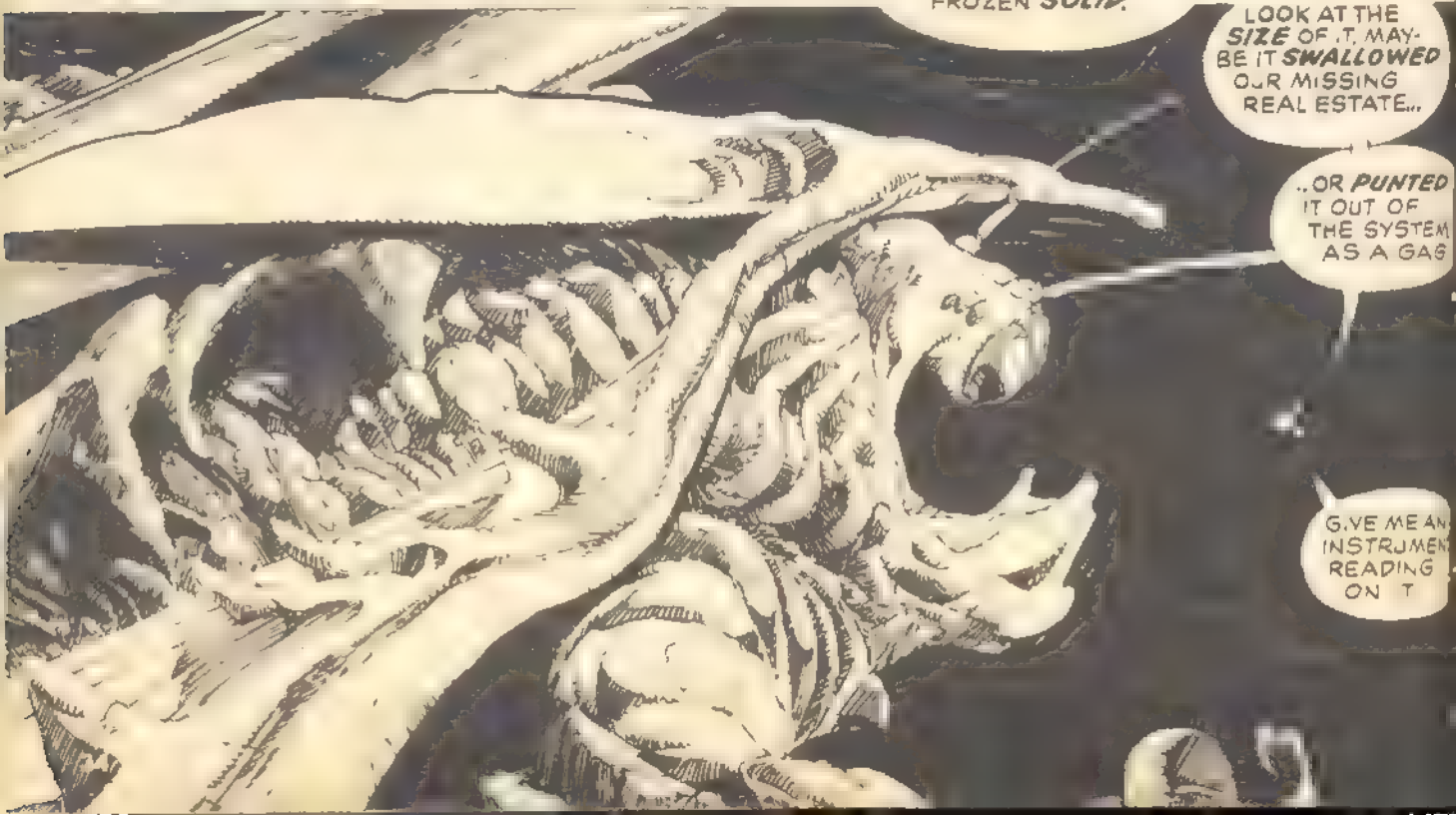
WAIT A
MINUTE, PHIL,
WHAT **THAT**
OVER THERE?

DAMNED IF I
KNOW, LET'S TAKE
A CLOSER LOOK



MY GOD...
IS THAT
THING
ALIVE?

SURE, HARRY...
ALIVE AND BREATHING
VACUUM. BE **SENSIBLE**.
...IT'S PROBABLY
FROZEN **SOLID**.



LOOK AT THE
SIZE OF IT, MAY-
BE IT **SWALLOWED**
OUR MISSING
REAL ESTATE...

...OR **PUNTED**
IT OUT OF
THE SYSTEM
AS A GAS

GIVE ME AN
INSTRUMENT
READING
ON T

POINT NINE GRAVITY WHATEVER
IT IS, IT'S **MASSIVE** AS HELL.
THOSE ATOMS ARE
PACKED IN TIGHT

I'M
GOING
TO **LAND**
ON IT.

HERE
WE GO

PH...IT
IS ALIVE
IT'S TRYING
TO **GRAB**
US.

SWITCH ON THE
FORCEFIELD FULL
ELECTRIFICATION. IT'LL
DROP US LIKE A
HOT POTATO

WRONG...IT'S **EATING**
US LIKE A COLD
FRENCH FRY.

SEND OUT
A D **STRESS**
SIGNAL

MAYDAY!

MAYDAY!

MAYDAY

MAYDAY

GULP

MAYDAY

MAYDAY!
MAYDAY!

FORGET IT THE
SIGNAL ISN'T PENE-
TRATING THE
CREATURE'S HIDE.
TOO **DENSE**.

WHERE ARE
YOU **GOING?**

ALL THAT TALK ABOUT
FOOD MADE ME HUNGRY.
I THOUGHT I'D MAKE
MYSELF A **SNACK**.
CARE TO JOIN ME?

4.9 LIGHT YEARS
AWAY, CYRILLA
TATTERSTALL,
THE **COMPANY'S**
TOP ADJUSTER
FACES HER BOSS...



THE MESSAGE
WAS **CLEAR** ENOUGH
THEY'RE OBVIOUSLY
IN TROUBLE. SHALL
I CHECK IT OUT?

YEAH...BUT BE
CAREFUL...I CAN'T
AFFORD TO **LOSE**
ANOTHER SHIP I'M
ALREADY OVER
BUDGET AS IT IS.



AND SO...

WHAT DO
YOU THINK, MS.
TATTERSTALL?

I THINK
IT'S **DENSE**
ENOUGH TO
CUT OFF SUB-
SPACE RADIO
TRANSMIS-
SIONS.



MY BEST **GUESS** IS THAT
HARRY AND PHIL ARE IN
THERE WHETHER OR
NOT THEY'RE STILL
INTACT IS ANOTHER
QUESTION ENTIRELY.



SO
WHAT'S
OUR NEXT
MOVE?

DO YOU
REMEMBER
THAT LAZY
TELEPATH
WE FOUND
ON **QUIRKS**?



YEAH...THE **COMPANY** LOST A
BUNDLE ON THAT DEAL. THE PLANET
WAS FULL OF PREDATORS, AND EVERY
GODDAM ONE OF THEM **HATED** HUMANS.
IT WAS ABSOLUTELY IMPOSSIBLE...

...TO UNLOAD THIS NUTHOUSE
FOR A **PROFIT**. I'VE GOT TO
GO, MS. TATTERSTALL. MY
ULCER IS KICKING UP
AGAIN YOU'RE ON
YOUR OWN... GOODBYE.

SHORTLY...



I **KNOW** YOU'RE HERE
SOMEWHERE. DON'T YOU
RECOGNIZE MY **MIND**?
WAKE UP AND LET
ME **SEE** YOU.



THERE YOU ARE, OLD FRIEND.

SORRY TO D. STURB YOUR REST.



THAT'S PERFECTLY ALL RIGHT I'M HAPPY TO SEE YOU.



WOULD YOU MIND SCRATCHING ME BEHIND THE EARS?

AND PLEASE CALL ME MAX.



MEANWHILE--

WHAT'RE THOSE FUNNY STREAKS OF LIGHT OUT THERE?

GOOD QUESTION. LET'S FREEZE THE IMAGE--

--AND INCREASE ITS SIZE, UNTIL WE CAN SEE--



CLICK

..WHAT WE'VE REALLY GOT HERE.



CLICK



UH-OH!

SON OF A BITCH!

CHOMP
CHOMP
MUNCH
CHOMP
MUNCH
CHEW
CHOMP
MUNCH
MUNCH



OFFHAND, I'D SAY WE DON'T HAVE MUCH TIME LEFT.

2.6 LIGHT YEARS LATER...

THERE
IT IS... BIG AS
LIFE AND TWICE
AS UGLY.

YAWN

CAN YOU
COMMUNICATE
WITH IT?

NAW... IT'S
A MACHINE,
LIKE YOUR
SHIP.

WHAT ABOUT HARRY AND
PHIL? CAN YOU REACH
THEM? ARE THEY
ALIVE IN THERE?

THEY'RE
FINE,
TRAPPED...
BUT FINE.
YAWN

I'LL
TELL THEM
WE'RE HERE.

HI, FELLA'S... REMEMBER
ME? *YAWN* CYRILLA
AND I HAVE COME TO
RESCUE YOU.

DID YOU
JUST HEAR
SOMETHING?

I
SURE
DID.

MUNCH MUNCH SWALLOW
CREW BITE CHEW
MUNCH CHOMP CHEW

WHAT'S
YOUR
SITUATION?

WELL,
YOU COULD
SAY IT'S
DESTABILIZ-
ING.

I SEE
WHAT YOU
MEAN

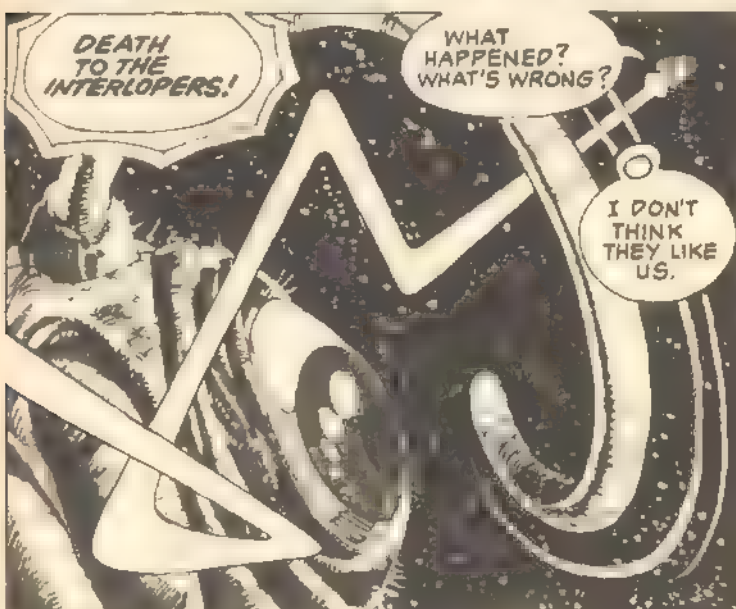
YAWN
MAYBE I
SHOULD TALK
TO THE
BUILDERS.

IT'S WORTH A SHOT. TELL
THEM WE'RE FRIENDLY. TRY
NOT TO FRIGHTEN THEM



I BEG
YOUR PARDON.
ARE YOU RECEIV-
ING ME OKAY?

GET OUT OF
OUR MIND. YOU'RE
EVIL AND WICKED.
WE'LL TEAR
YOU APART.



DEATH
TO THE
INTERLOPERS!

WHAT
HAPPENED?
WHAT'S WRONG?

I DON'T
THINK
THEY LIKE
US.



THE
RIDE IS
GETTING
ROCKY.

I
FEEL
SICK.



THAT THING IS
FAST. DID YOU
EXPLAIN THAT
WE'RE FRIENDLY?

THEY DIDN'T
GIVE ME A
CHANCE. YAWN!
I'LL TRY THEM
AGAIN.



PLEASE STOP
CHASING US.
WE WISH YOU
NO HARM.

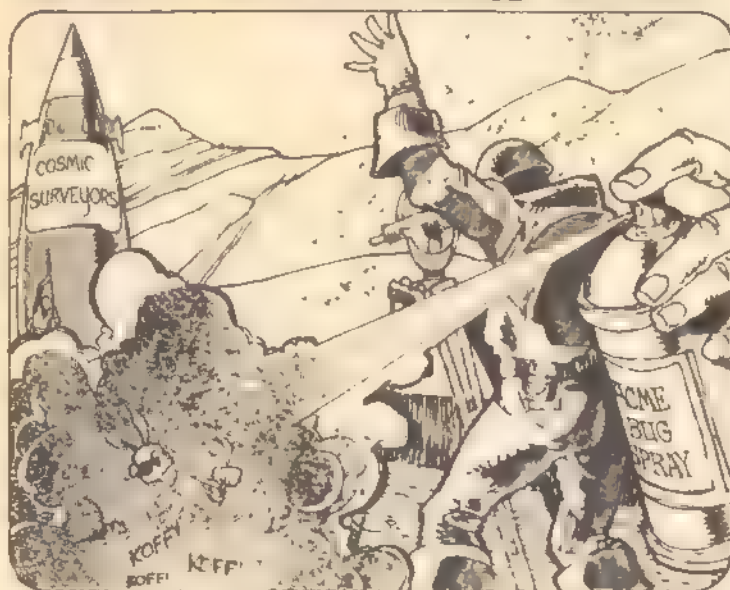
WE
DON'T
BELIEVE
YOU.



LOOK INSIDE
MY MIND. YAWN!
WHAT DO YOU
SEE?

YOU'RE
TELLING THE
TRUTH BUT
WHAT ABOUT
THE OTHERS?

MANY GENERATIONS AGO THEY CAME TO CONQUER OUR WORLD. WE HID FROM THEM, AND THEY LEFT, BUT WE KNEW THEY'D RETURN, SO WE CHANGED OUR WORLD...



...INTO A WEAPON OF DEFENSE. THEY LIVE ON A MUCH **FASTER TIME SCALE** *YAWN* THAN REASONABLE BEINGS LIKE US.

INTELLIGENT FRUIT FLIES...A GENERATION IN A COUPLE OF HOURS, CENTURIES OF PROGRESS IN A MONTH.



TELL THEM THEIR WORLD IS **USELESS** TO US NOW, AND IF THEY RELEASE OUR PEOPLE WE'LL LEAVE THEM ALONE. OTHERWISE IT'S **WAR**.

I'LL TELL THEM.



SEVERAL DEBATABLE GENERATIONS LATER...



SHORTLY...

TO OUR LIBERATOR!


HOW'D YOU TALK HIM INTO HELPING US?

I PROMISED HIM A WARM PLACE TO **SLEEP**, PLENTY OF FOOD, A CHANCE TO TRAVEL, AND AN ABSOLUTE MINIMUM OF ACTUAL WORK.



I'D SAY HE'S **ADAPTED** QUITE NICELY.





Far below, you had been called
Aaron DeKoven.
But here, high in the Rockies,
you have another identity. You climb
on numb, half frozen feet,
forcing the thin air into burning lungs
through blood-caked nostrils . . .
climb until the distant treeline
is but golden tinsel
in the late afternoon sun.

You ignore the raging fever
that leaves you lightheaded . . .
the racking cough that
threatens to shake loose
your icy grip
from the narrow ledge
and send you tumbling
into the abyss.

You climb until
the clouds
that envelop the
mountain's
twin peaks
enfold you. You do
this because you are
the last of a breed
. . . a mountain man
. . . the man the
Indians call . . .

Beastslayer

The Redmen gave you
that name long ago
when you were new
to the Rockies.
They'd seen other
white men, of course.
Most had been searching
for nuggets of gold
or lush pelts that could be
traded for gold.
A few had come
for adventure.




But you, DeKoven, had been different.
You came only to kill—
for the vicious pleasure of it!
Sure, you called yourself a trapper
and took pelts occasionally,
but only if they were
exceptionally fine!

Even those you took for trophies,
as an Indian takes scalps.
But mostly you left
the furry carcasses to rot.

The Bear. The Cougar. The Elk.
The Bighorn Sheep.
All had stood before you.
All had found death
at your hand.




BLAM!



Then, when encroaching civilization
drove the great beasts from the lowlands,
you followed them into the high country.
You haven't seen a change of seasons for three years
... a whiteman's face in almost twice that.

Now, even here among the majestic peaks,
the beasts elude you. Their
number decreases. Their
dominance is
ending.

The Indians curse
you and think you
are mad ...!




Perhaps it ~~is~~ madness . . .
that lust to kill
that spurs you on.

Your eyes heavy with fever and fatigue,
your fingers torn and bleeding,
you drag your leaden body upward
toward your final fog-shrouded goal.

A snowstorm is brewing.
Dusk is fast descending.
Tonight you'll stop.
Make camp. Rest.
But tomorrow . . .
tomorrow you'll kill
a legend!



They guided you here,
to this gap
between cloud-covered peaks.
You camp on sacred ground.
No Indian will come here.
A mound of skulls
marks this as a Holy Place,
Big Medicine, the Home of a God!



The wind howls
and whips at your lean-to.
Fear—could it really be fear?—gnaws at you.
Everything beyond the fire's glow
is a mystery. The beast could be right there,
crouched in the shadows . . .




BLAM!

The stars are bright overhead.
The day will dawn,
bright and serene.
All you'll need is one clear shot.

The sky is getting lighter now . . .
not much . . . but you can see vague shapes . . .
the dark treeline far below . . .
the vaulting peak to your right . . .
wide open space in front of you.
And behind . . .

Oh, God! Behind! There!
Lord, the size of it!
Shoot! Shoot, Beast Slayer!
Shoot while you can!
Now!



A mountain gap
high in the Rockies . . .
A sacred place to most
of the Indian nations . . .
brightly lit on a clear,
cold morning.
Even a madman could see
why the Indians call it
"The Beast's Lair."

Broken and buried at its foot
is the body of one Aaron DeKoven,
victim of an avalanche . . .
buried by thirty tons of the finest pelt
his rifle has ever brought down.

Sunday Dinner



WRITER LARRY HAMA/ARTIST: AURALEON





I GUESS
THERE'S NO
FOOLING YOU
KIDS!

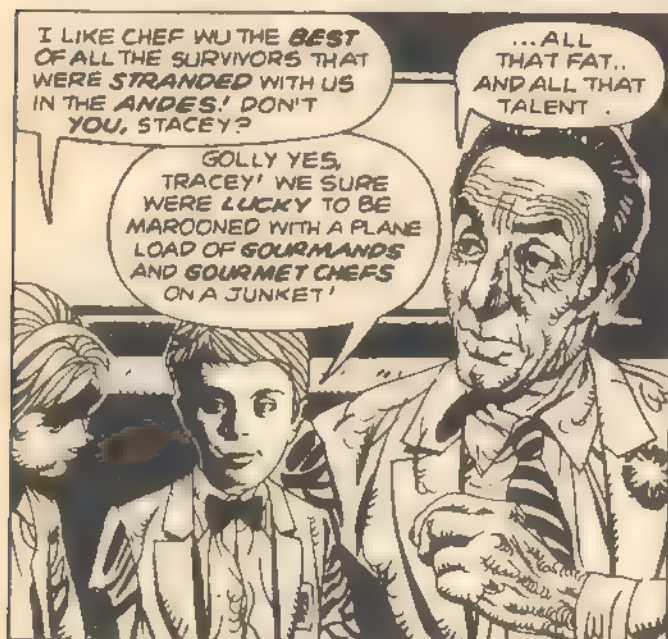
TO
CHEF WU'S
IT IS!



IS HE
D-DEAD,
TOMMY?

WELL WHAT
DO YOU
THINK,
DUMMY?

I DONE
MOVED THE BACK
OF THIS TURKEY'S
HEAD SIX FEET
FROM THE FRONT
WITH A WAD
CUTTER!



I LIKE CHEF WU THE BEST
OF ALL THE SURVIVORS THAT
WERE STRANDED WITH US
IN THE ANDES! DON'T
YOU, STACEY?

...ALL
THAT FAT..
AND ALL THAT
TALENT

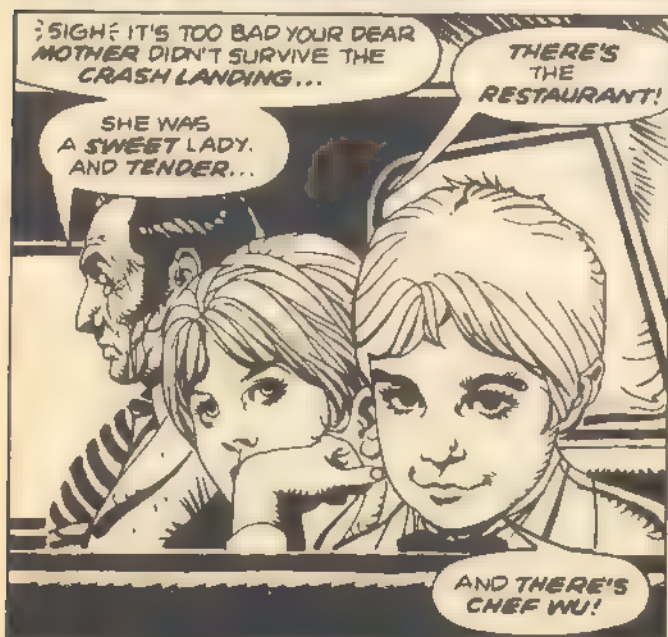
GOLLY YES,
TRACEY! WE SURE
WERE LUCKY TO BE
MAROONED WITH A PLANE
LOAD OF GOURMANDS
AND GOURMET CHEFS
ON A JUNKET!



I AIN'T TAKIN' NO FALL FOR
MURDER ONE! WE GOTTA
BLOW THIS BURG, BUT FAST!
HOW'S ABOUT FRISCO? I
GOT SOME CONNECTIONS--

--AND
NO MONEY!

I HATE
TO BURST YOUR
BUBBLE, JIMMY,
BUT WE AIN'T GETTIN'
TO THE COAST ON JUST
GOOD VIBES AND
HANDSHAKES!

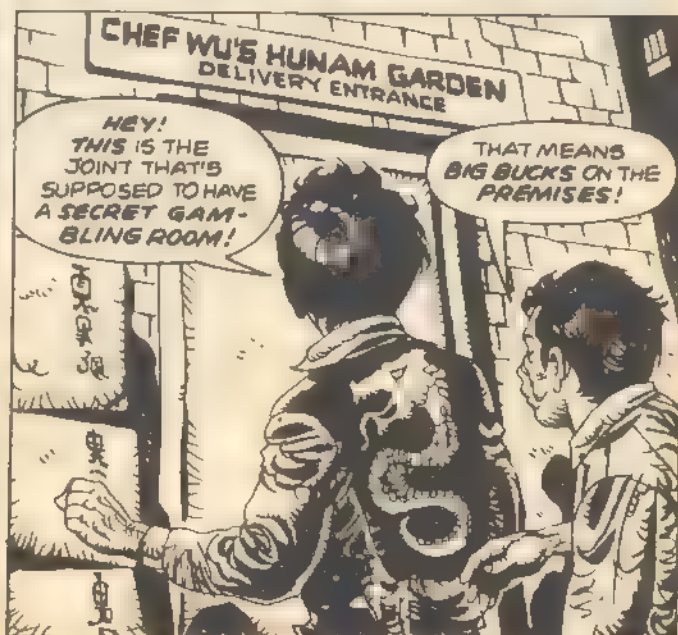


SIGH! IT'S TOO BAD YOUR DEAR
MOTHER DIDN'T SURVIVE THE
CRASH LANDING...

SHE WAS
A SWEET LADY.
AND TENDER...

THERE'S
THE
RESTAURANT!

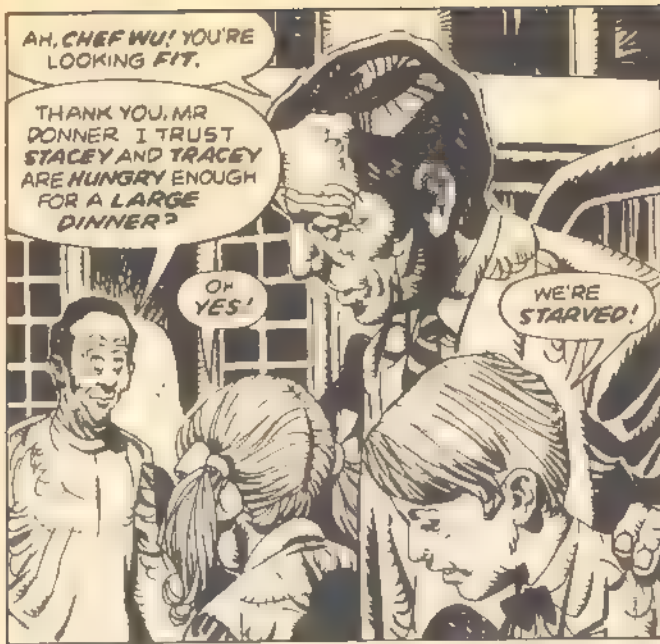
AND THERE'S
CHEF WU!

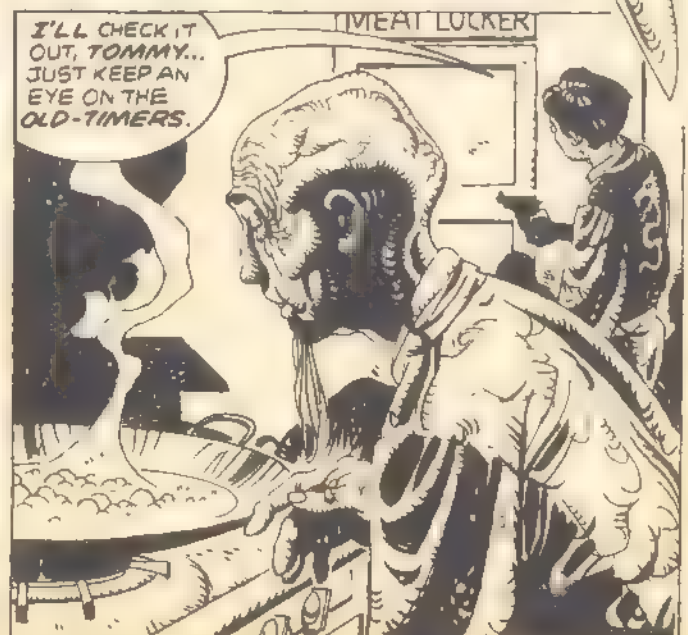
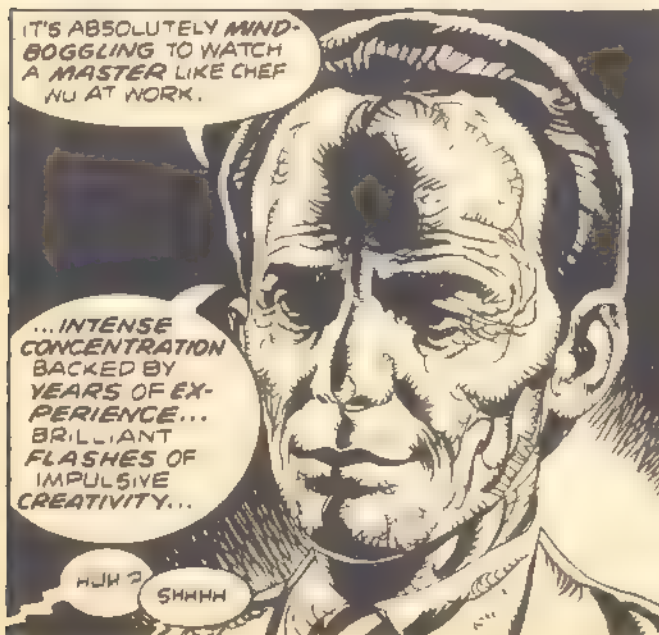
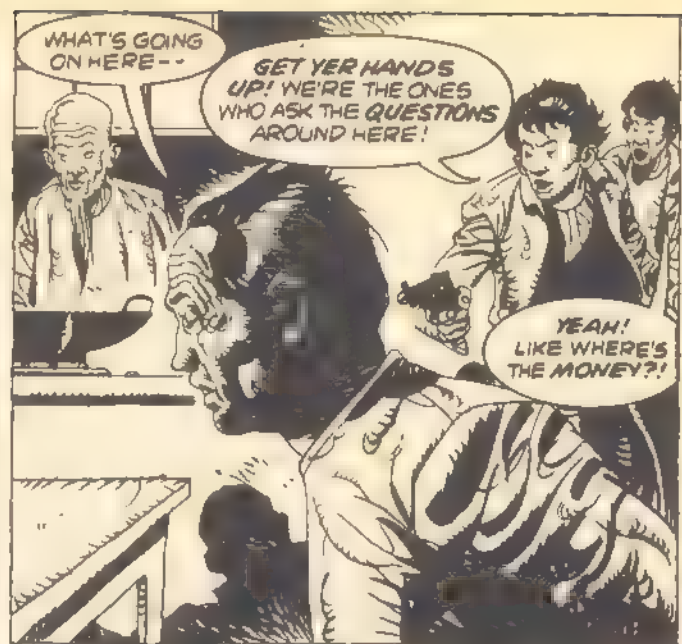
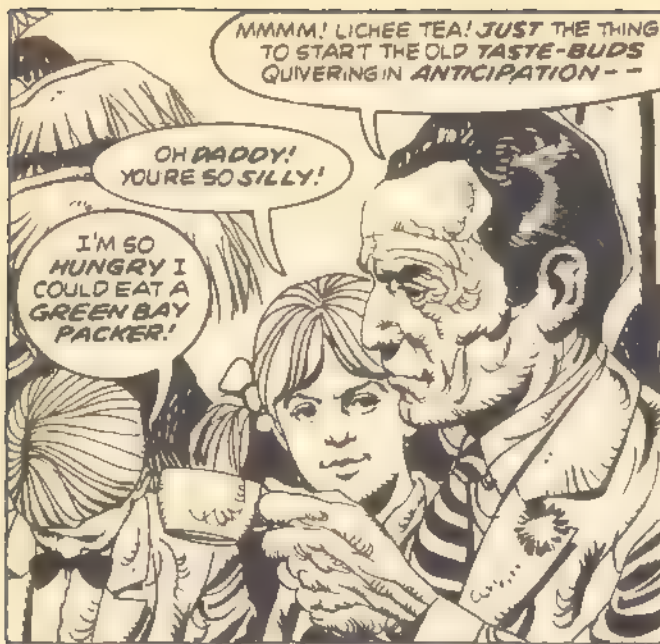


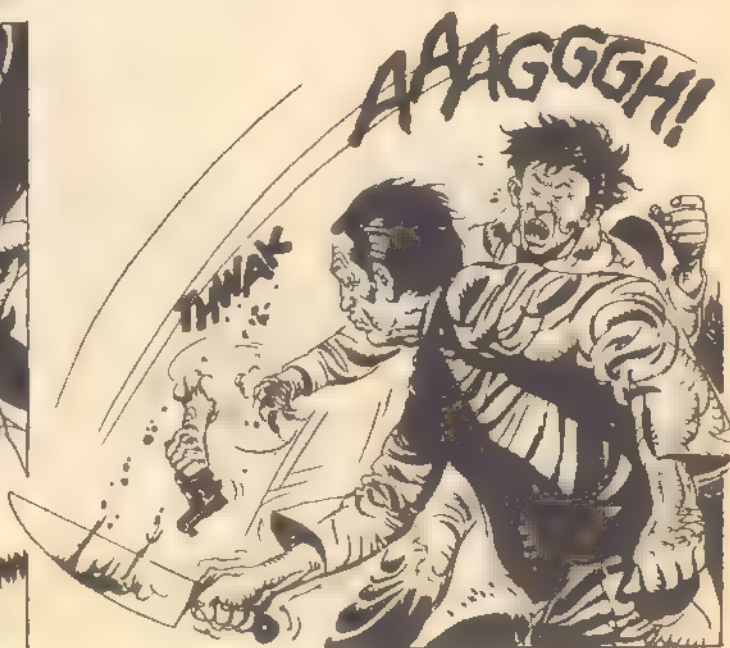
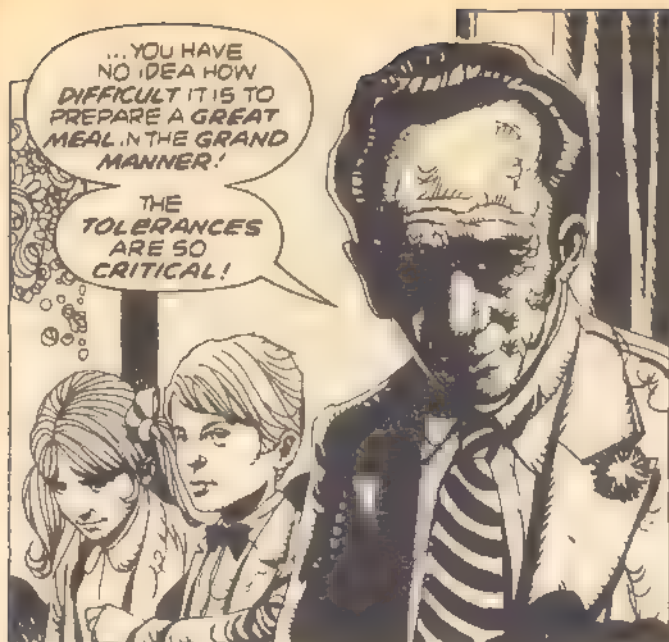
CHEF WU'S HUNAM GARDEN
DELIVERY ENTRANCE

HEY!
THIS IS THE
JOINT THAT'S
SUPPOSED TO HAVE
A SECRET GAM-
BLING ROOM!

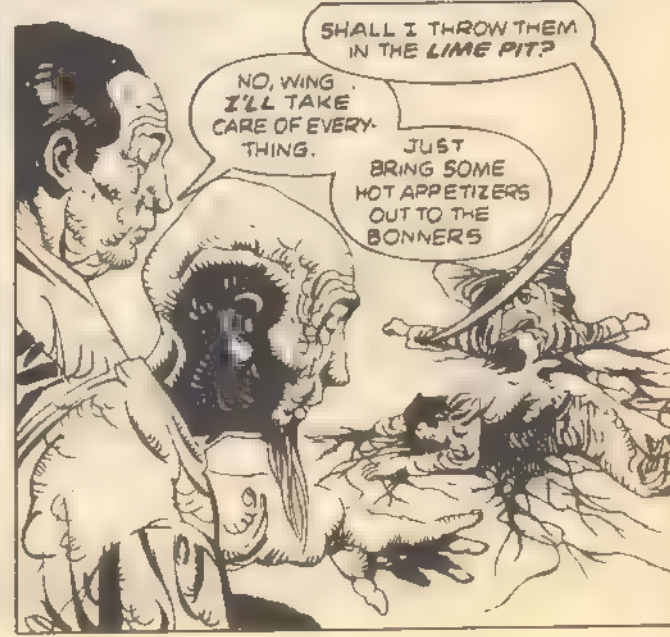
THAT MEANS
BIG BUCKS ON THE
PREMISES!











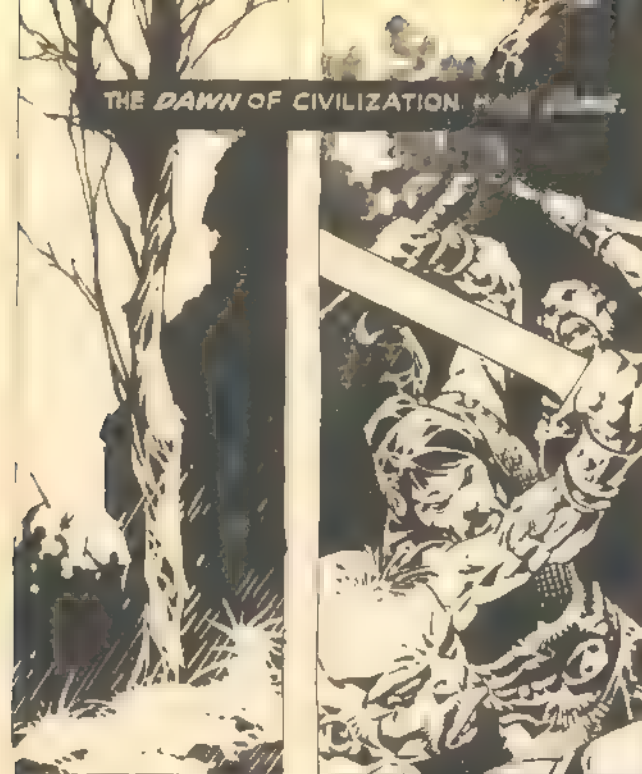


THE NEW WARREN AGE
OF EXCITEMENT HAS ARRIVED!
IN THE ALL-NEW ADVENTURE-PACKED

The ROOK



AT NEWSSTANDS EVERYWHERE NOW!



THE DAWN OF CIVILIZATION HAS COME.



THWOP



AN OLDER AGE, THE SHADOWAGE OF LEGEND AND MAGIC...

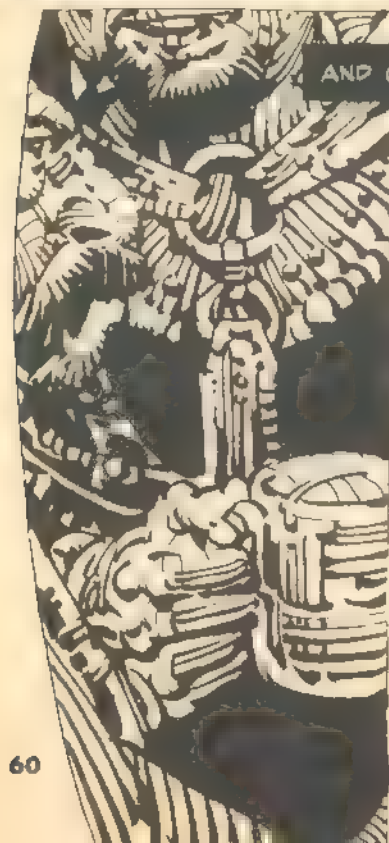
...IS PASSING.



PASSING, BUT NOT YET GONE.



AND ON DARK, SELDOM TRAVELLED TRAIL



...WIZARDRY CAN STILL BE FOUND.



IN THE GREAT MOUNTAINS THAT DIVIDE THE EAST AND WEST SANCTUARIES ARE FEW THOSE THAT EXIST, LIKE THE FROST LEOPARD INN, PLAY HOST TO TRAVELLERS AND CUT-THROATS, PILGRIMS AND MERCHANTS. ANY WITH COIN TO SPEND OR TRINKET TO TRADE ARE WELCOMED WITHOUT GREAT CEREMONY OR ATTENTION...

SOME HOWEVER DO DRAW NOTICE

HE IS CALLED THANE. HE HAS BEEN A WARRIOR FOR MORE YEARS THAN MOST MEN IN THESE CHANGING AND VIOLENT TIMES LIVE. THANE IS NOT MOST MEN. HE IS A MAN ON A QUEST, A QUEST...

The Last Sorcerer

WRITER: ARCHIE GOODWIN/ARTIST: ALEX WING



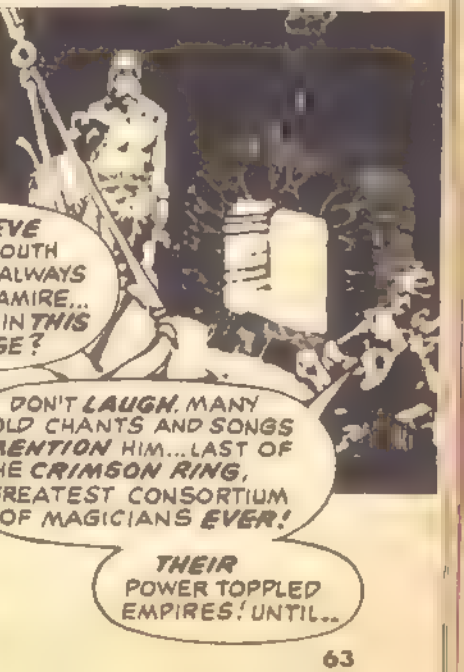
IN THE GREAT MOUNTAINS THAT *DIVIDE* THE EAST AND WEST SANCTUARIES ARE *FEW* THOSE THAT *EXIST*, LIKE THE FROST LEOPARD INN, *PLAY HOST* TO TRAVELLERS AND CUT-THROATS, PILGRIMS AND MERCHANTS. ANY WITH *COWA* TO SPEND OR *TRINKET* TO TRADE ARE WELCOMED WITHOUT GREAT CEREMONY OR ATTENTION.


SOME, HOWEVER, DO DRAW NOTICE

HE IS CALLED *THANE*. HE HAS BEEN A WARRIOR FOR MORE YEARS THAN MOST MEN IN THESE CHANGING AND VIOLENT TIMES LIVE. *THANE* IS *NOT* MOST MEN. HE IS A MAN ON A QUEST. A QUEST

The Last Sorcerer

WRITER: ARCHIE GOODWIN/ARTIST: ALEX NINO





BESIDES, A TRUE WARRIOR OUGHT TO TEST HIS SKILLS AGAINST SOMETHING **WORTHIER** THAN A DAMN TERRITORIAL SQUABBLE.

THAT DOESN'T SOUND LIKE THE LUSTY BARBARIAN I'VE **HEARD** ABOUT...

...WHO'S BEEN EVERYTHING FROM A **BANDIT** TO A **KING**.

ALL OF IT SEEMS PRETTY **EMPTY** NOW, BOY. I DOUBT IT WILL HAPPEN, BUT IF YOU GET TO BE **MY AGE**...

YOU'VE FOUND SOMETHING **BETTER** THAN ALL THAT, OLD MAN...?

BETTER FOR ME, I'VE BEEN AT IT A SCORE OF YEARS... TRAILING THE SORCERER... **SHARKHAN!**

I DON'T BELIEVE IT! FROM THE MOUTH OF THE MAN I ALWAYS THOUGHT I'D AMIRE... **SORCERERS!** IN THIS DAY AND AGE?

DON'T LAUGH. MANY OLD CHANTS AND SONGS MENTION HIM... LAST OF THE **CRIMSON RING**, GREATEST CONSORTIUM OF MAGICIANS EVER!

THEIR POWER TOPPLED EMPIRES! UNTIL...



UNTIL
A SWORD
TOPPLED
THEM.
MINSTREL!

FIVE NOTCHES
ONE FOR EACH
OF THE CRIMSON
RING EXCEPTING...

SHARKHAN...



THE **LAST** SORCERER...!
IF HE EXISTS... THE MAN
WHO RIDES THE **WORLD**
OF HIM WOULD BE A
LEGEND.

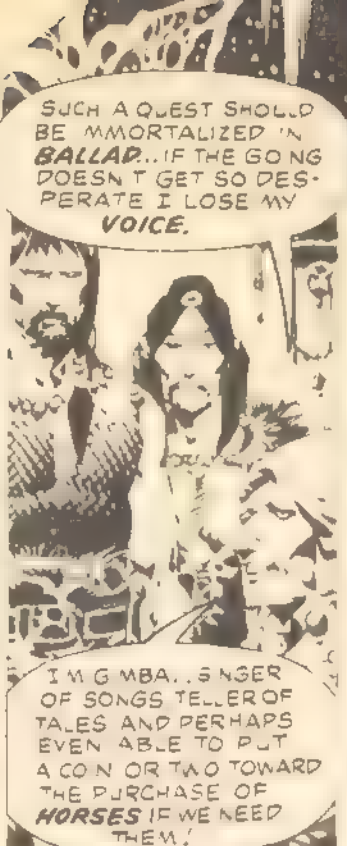
WEALTH...WHOLE
KINGDOMS COULD BE
HIS FOR THE ASKING
...OR THE **TAKING!**



WHAT WOULD YOU
SAY TO MY **JOINING**
YOU OLD MAN?

NO SEEMS
REASONABLE

BUT IT'S PROBABLY
BETTER TO HAVE YOU
AT MY **SIDE** THAN
TRAILING ALONG BEHIND
WHERE I CAN'T
WATCH YOU.



SUCH A QUEST SHOULD
BE IMMORTALIZED IN
BALLAD... IF THE GONG
DOESN'T GET SO DES-
PERATE I LOSE MY
VOICE.

I'M G.M.B.A., SINGER
OF SONGS, TELLER OF
TALES AND PERHAPS
EVEN ABLE TO PUT
A COIN OR TWO TOWARD
THE PURCHASE OF
HORSES IF WE NEED
THEM!

DAYLIGHT
COMES
AND THE
JOURNEY
BEGINS.



TAKING THE **HIGH**
TRAIL IS RISKY,
THANE...! IF IT'S
SNOWING DOWN
HERE, UP **THERE**
WE'LL FIND...

A BLIZZARD!
SLEET COMES
AT THEM IN
TORRENTS
RELENTLESSLY,
OPPRESSIVELY.



THESE ANIMALS
ARE SKITTISH AS
VIRGINS AT A
PIRATE ORGY!

THEY **SENSE**
WE'RE GETTING
CLOSE...

I'VE TRACKED SHARKHAN
FROM LAIR TO **LAIR** OVER
THE YEARS. ALWAYS HE'S
FLED TO **ANOTHER.**

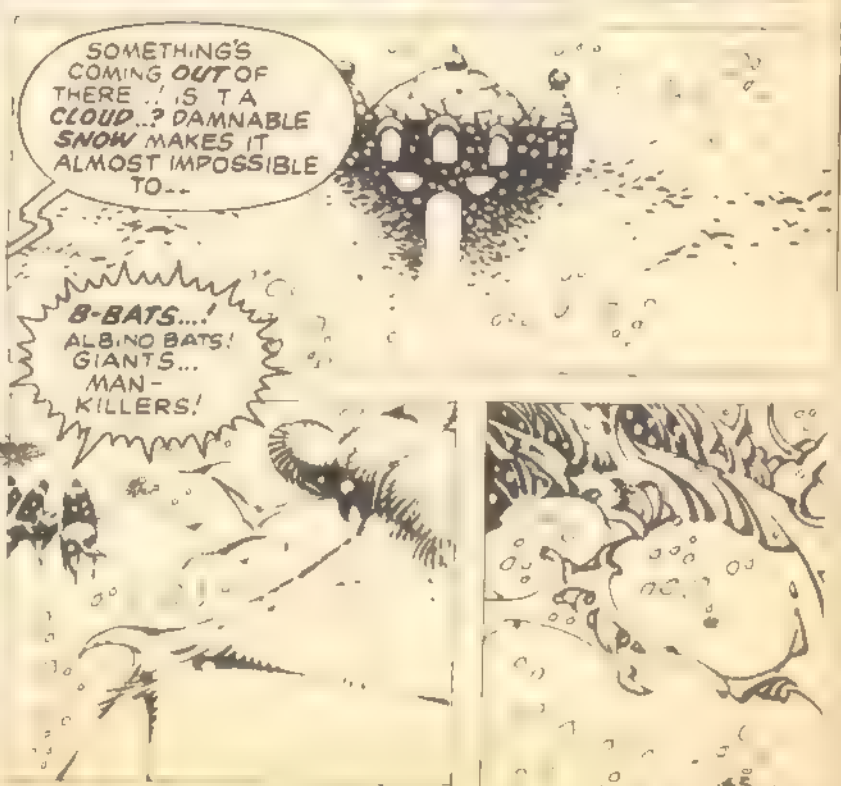
ONE OF MY ATTACKERS
LAST NIGHT MUTTERED
SOMETHING ABOUT
PROTECTING THE MASTER'S
HIGH CITADEL...



...EVERY BONE IN
MY BODY SREAMS
THAT...



...THIS IS
IT!
AND FROM THE
DESPERATION OF
THE ATTACK, I'D WAGER
THIS IS SHARKHAN'S
LAST HIDEAWAY.



SOMETHING'S
COMING **OUT** OF
THERE... IS A
CLOUD...? DAMNABLE
SNOW MAKES IT
ALMOST IMPOSSIBLE
TO...

B-BATS...
ALBINO BATS!
GIANTS...
MAN-
KILLERS!

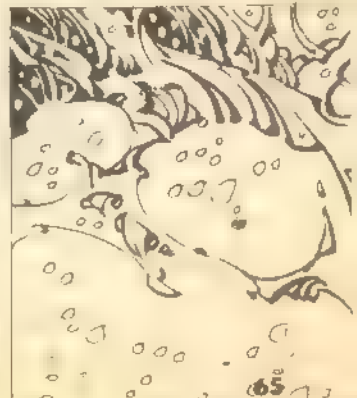


THIS IS
IT!

AND FROM THE
DESPERATION OF
THE ATTACK.. I'D WAGER
THIS IS SHARKHAN'S
LAST HIDEAWAY!

SOMETHING'S
COMING OUT OF
THERE... IS A
CLOUD...? DAMNABLE
SNOW MAKES IT
ALMOST IMPOSSIBLE
TO--

B-BATS...!
ALBINO BATS!
GIANTS...
MAN-
KILLERS!



THEY FALL FROM THE
SKY, A LIVING WAVE,
BREAKING...

...ON COLD STEEL
AND FIERCE
DETERMINATION!

GIMBA!

A LEAP THE FRANTIC CLENCHING OF
AN IRON-TENDONED HAND, THEN...

THANE! I'M
FALLING! HELP
ME!

THE LEATH
BUTTER ON
PEACH

SKREEE

THHOO

K!

EASY GIMBA THEY'RE
GONE. THIS MONSTER
WAS APPARENTLY
THE LEADER OF
THE FLOCK...

YOU'VE A SWIFT,
STRONG SWORD
ARM, ARISTO

BECAUSE IT'S
UNHAMPERED BY AGE
OR IDEALS, THANE...

...AND BECAUSE I MIGHT NEED
THE TWO OF YOU BEFORE THE
SORCERER IS WITHIN REACH
OF T!

HERE'S YOUR
LUTE, MINSTREL...
SERENADE US...
WITH AN ODE TO THE
HUMILITY OF YOUTH!

DAYS FROM
NOW MY HANDS
WILL BE TOO
TREMBLING TO
MUCH TO PLAY!

...PERHAPS...
MY DECISION
TO KEEP
COMPANY
WITH YOU
WAS RASH.

B-BUT... YOU DON'T KNOW
WHAT'S AHEAD. HOW CAN
YOU KEEP AT THIS...?

THINGS ARE
NOT ALL
GLOOM GIMBA
THE SNOW
SEEMS TO
HAVE
STOPPED!

ONCE I WAS
VENGEANCE.
THE CRIMSON
RING ROBBED
ME OF A
KINGDOM.

BUT THAT WAS LONG AGO...
I SELDOM EVEN THINK OF THE
LOSS NOW PERHAPS... IT'S
THAT IN A CHANGING WORLD,
SHARKHAN... DEADLY THOUGH
HE MAY BE, IS A WORTHY FOE.

THEN YOU OUGHT TO BE
HAPPY, THANE... THE
WORTHY SORCERER IS
SURELY CLOSE-BY!

AND HE'S LEFT
HIS DOOR OPEN
FOR US!



SKREEE

THHOO

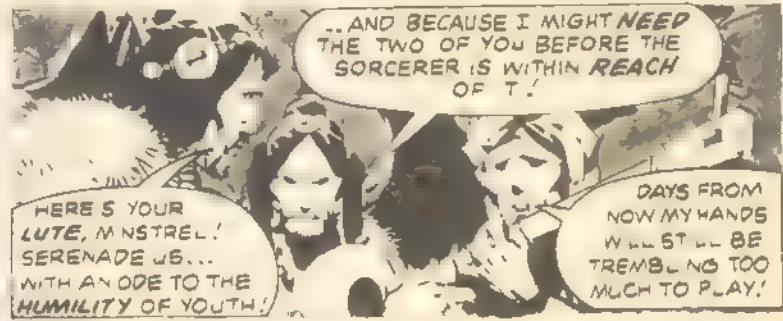
K!



EASY, GIMBA. THEY'RE GONE. THIS MONSTER WAS APPARENTLY THE LEADER OF THE FLOCK...!

YOU'VE A SWIFT, STRONG SWORD ARM, AR STO.

BECAUSE IT'S UNHAMPERED BY AGE OR IDEALS, THANE...



...AND BECAUSE I MIGHT NEED THE TWO OF YOU BEFORE THE SORCERER IS WITHIN REACH OF T.

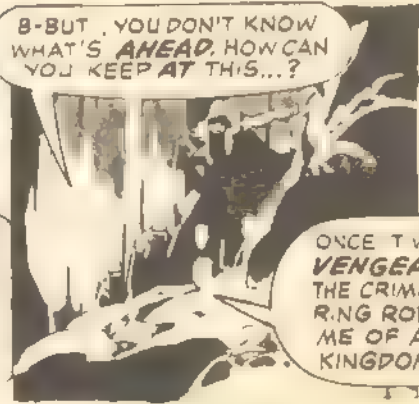
HERE'S YOUR LUTE, M'NSTREL! SERENADE US... WITH AN ODE TO THE HUMILITY OF YOUTH!

DAYS FROM NOW MY HANDS WILL BE TREMBLING TOO MUCH TO PLAY!



...PERHAPS... MY DECISION TO KEEP COMPANY WITH YOU WAS RASH.

THINGS ARE NOT ALL GLOOM, GIMBA. THE SNOW SEEMS TO HAVE STOPPED!



B-BUT, YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT'S AHEAD. HOW CAN YOU KEEP AT THIS...?

ONCE T WAS VENGEANCE. THE CRIMSON RING ROBBED ME OF A KINGDOM.



BUT THAT WAS LONG AGO... I SELDOM EVEN THINK OF THE LOSS NOW PERHAPS... IT'S THAT IN A CHANGING WORLD, SHARKHAN... DEADLY THOUGH HE MAY BE, IS A WORTHY FOE.

THEN YOU OUGHT TO BE HAPPY, THANE... THE WORTHY SORCERER IS SURELY CLOSE-BY!

AND HE'S LEFT HIS DOOR OPEN FOR US!



DON'T BE A FOOL, ARISTO. SORCERERS HAVE NO NEED OF LOCKS OR DRAW-BRIDGES--

THERE'S A GUARDIAN COMING FORTH!



YOU'VE STOPPED SMILING, YOUNG WARRIOR. DO YOU BELIEVE IN WIZARDS AND MAGICIANS AT LAST?

THANE FINDS SMALL SATISFACTION IN THE TAUNT. FOR SHARKHAN'S GUARDIAN DOES NOT STOP, DOES NOT HESITATE...AND ON A NARROW ARCH OF STONE ABOVE A MILES-DEEP CHASM, THE BATTLE IS JOINED!



SWINGING HIS ARM LIKE A BLACKSMITH AT THE FORGE, THANE HAMMERS THE GREAT FIGURE. HAMMERS, BUT...

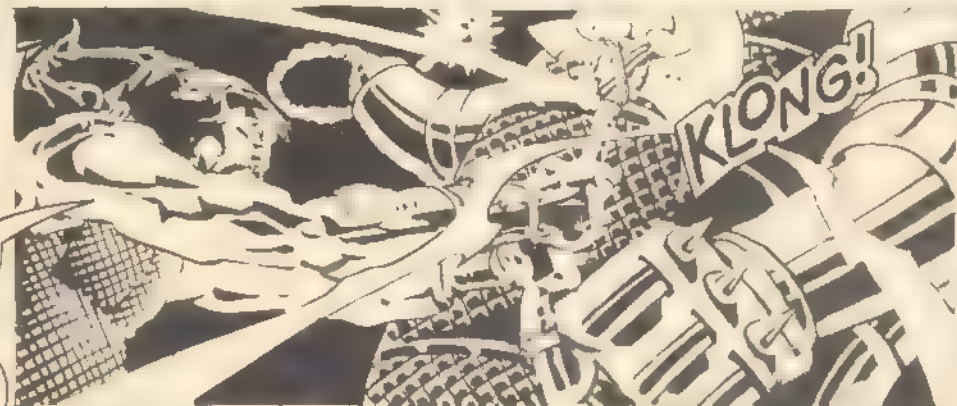
THERE'S NO BODY... NO FLESH... IN THERE! THE FORCE OF THE BLOWS ROCK IT BACK...

...BUT WE COULD POUND IT FOR A FORTNIGHT WITH AX AND SWORD AND DO NO HARM!

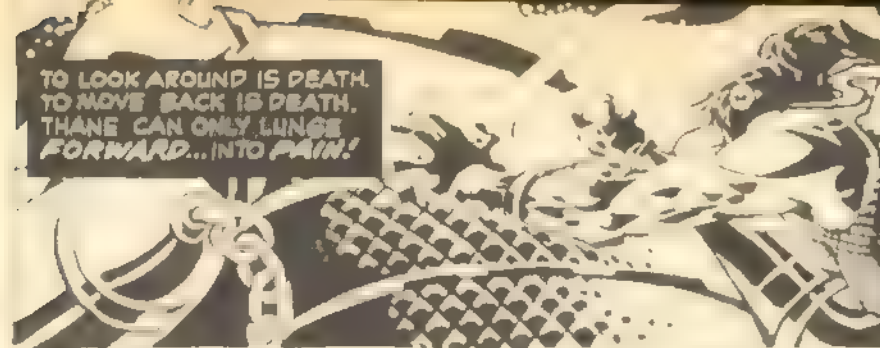
BLOOD OF THE GODS!

ARISTO! STRIKE AT THE THING... DISTRACT IT, IT'LL KNOCK MY HEAD OFF BEFORE I CAN DRAW MY BLADE!

ARISTO DOES NOT ANSWER...



KLONG!



TO LOOK AROUND IS DEATH. TO MOVE BACK IS DEATH. THANE CAN ONLY LUNGE FORWARD... INTO PAIN!

AAAGHHHH! THE WHOLE CREATURE MUST BE FIRE...! FIRE LIKE HELL'S OWN FURNACES!

AND YET, WITH ALL HIS GREAT STRENGTH, HE KEEPS SHOVING...

...FOR HE SEES MORE IN IT! SNOW! SNOW! UNTIL THE MONSTROSITY SLAMS AGAINST THE CITADEL WALL WITH VIBRATING FORCE...



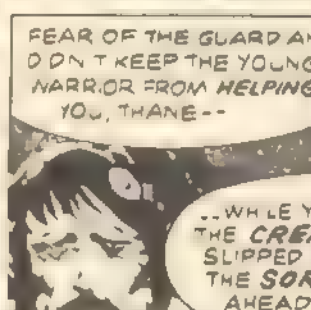
...UNLEASHING A CASCADE...

...OF TUMBLING SNOW AND ICE!



GIMBA...! ARISTO...! IT'S FINISHED...!

IT'S LIFE FIRE... TURNED TO STEAM...!



FEAR OF THE GUARDIAN DIDN'T KEEP THE YOUNG WARRIOR FROM HELPING YOU, THANE--

...WHILE YOU OCCUPIED THE CREATURE, HE SLIPPED ON TO REACH THE SORCERER AHEAD OF YOU!



CAUGHT...! THE GREAT SHARKHAN... CAUGHT NAPPING ON HIS THRONE IN A MYSTIC TRANCE!

THE SORCERER, THANE! SLAY HIM QUICKLY!

WAIT, GIMBA! WAIT AND SEE...!



TO LOOK AROUND IS DEATH.
TO MOVE BACK IS DEATH.
THANE CAN ONLY LUNGE
FORWARD... INTO PAIN!

AAAGHHHH! THE WHOLE
CREATURE MUST BE FIRE...!
FIRE LIKE HELL'S OWN FURNACES!

AND YET, WITH ALL HIS GREAT
STRENGTH, HE KEEPS SHOVING...

...FOR HE SEES HOPE IN IT! SNOW
SHOVE UNTIL THE MONSTROSITY
SLAMS AGAINST THE CITADEL
WALL WITH VIBRATING FORCE...

...UNLEASHING A CASCADE...

...OF TUMBLING SNOW AND ICE!

GIMBA...! ARISTO...
!-IT'S FINISHED...!

IT'S LIFE FIRE...
TURNED TO STEAM...!

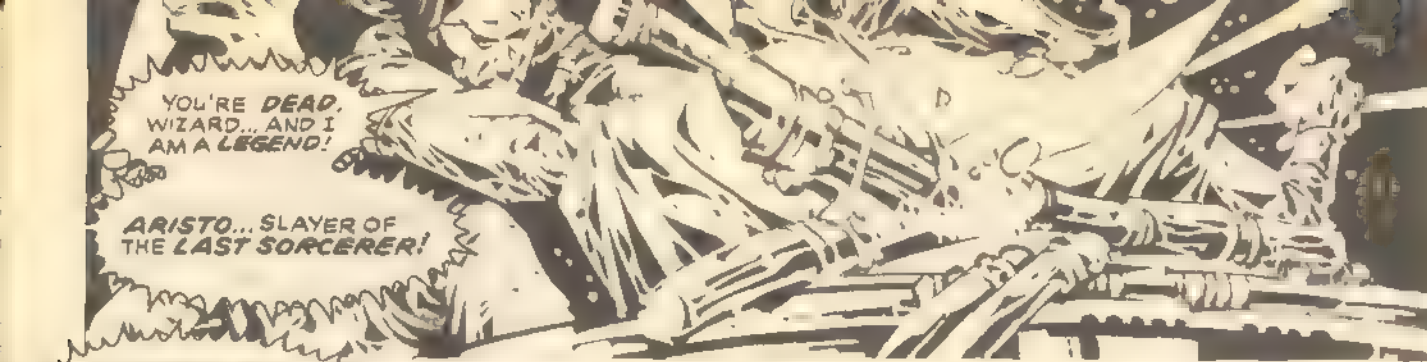
FEAR OF THE GUARDIAN
DIDN'T KEEP THE YOUNG
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...WHILE YOU OCCUPIED
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SLIPPED ON TO REACH
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AHEAD OF YOU!

CAUGHT...! THE GREAT
SHARKHAN... CAUGHT
NAPPING ON HIS THRONE
IN A MYSTIC TRANCE!

THE SORCERER,
THANE! SLAY
HIM QUICKLY!

WAIT, GIMBA!
WAIT AND
SEE...!



YOU'RE DEAD, WIZARD... AND I AM A LEGEND!

ARISTO... SLAYER OF THE LAST SORCERER!

NO BLOOD... NO DEATH CRY...! AS THOUGH... HE WAS LONG DEAD BEFORE I STRUCK!

OR TRANSFERRED HIS SPIRIT TO ANOTHER FORM, ARISTO... SORCERER CAN DO THAT!

I FIRST SUSPECTED WHAT SHARKHAN HAD DONE AFTER OUR BATTLE WITH THE BATS.

BEYOND MUTILATING HIS BODY YOU'VE ACCOMPLISHED NOTHING.

... EXCEPT FORCE ME TO KILL YOU FOR BETRAYING ME ON THE BRIDGE!

HOW WILL YOU DO THAT, OLD MAN...? HOW WILL THOSE INJURED HANDS HOLD A BLADE AGAINST THE HAMMERING POWER OF MY SWORDSTROKES?!

I SAID YOUR SWORD ARM WAS SWIFT AND STRONG ARISTO!

KRANG!

BUT IN YOUR ARROGANT COCKSURE LITTLE MIND...



... COULDN'T YOU CONCEIVE OF SOMEONE BEING SWIFTER AND STRONGER?!



WELL THAT LEAVES YOU AND ME G'MBA.



OR SHOULD I CALL YOU SHARKHAN?

I LOST CONTROL... COULDN'T MANAGE BATS AND WEATHER!

THEN YOU DID GUESS ALL BACK ON THE TRAIL!

INSTEAD OF PRETENDING TO FALL... TO DRAW YOU TO A VULNERABLE POSITION... I DID FALL!

AND I FRIGHTENED YOU... ENOUGH THAT YOU LET THE SNOW STOP WHICH GAVE YOU AWAY TO ME.

BE DONE WITH IT THEN... TO WORK UP MORE SPELLS EVEN A SORCERER OF MY ABILITY NEEDS TIME... YOU'VE HOUNDED ME FOR YEARS... IT'S OVER AT LEAST DO ME THE COURTESY OF SLAYING ME SWIFTLY!

JUST THE WAY I ALWAYS INTENDED, SHARKHAN... TO FINALLY REDEEM THE WORLD OF YOU AND YOUR DARK KIND!

ONLY WHAT THEN, FIGHT FIGHT PADDLING WARS AND BARROOM BRAWLS UNTIL SOME YOUNG BRAVO LIKE ARISTO FINALLY DOES ME IN...?



WHEN YOU DIE, SORCERER... AN AGE DIES WITH YOU. AND LIKE IT OR NOT...

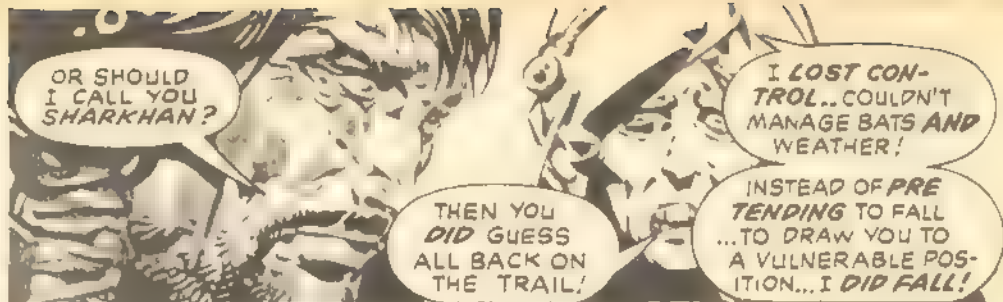
... IT'S MY AGE TOO. WE'RE BOTH THE STUFF OF SONG AND STORY NOW. SO WORK WHATEVER SPELLS YOU WILL, SHARKHAN... AND LET OUR FIGHT CONTINUE THIS NEW WORLD CAN USE A FEW LEGENDS MORE!



CIVILIZATION COME, AN OLD AGE IS PASSING... BUT NOT SO!



WELL THAT
LEAVES
YOU
AND ME
G M.B.A.



OR SHOULD
I CALL YOU
SHARKHAN?

I LOST CON-
TROL... COULDN'T
MANAGE BATS AND
WEATHER!

THEN YOU
DID GUESS
ALL BACK ON
THE TRAIL!

INSTEAD OF PRE
TENDING TO FALL
...TO DRAW YOU TO
A VULNERABLE POS-
ITION... I DID FALL!

AND IT FRIGHTEN-
ED YOU... ENOUGH
THAT YOU LET THE
SNOW STOP WHICH
GAVE YOU AWAY
TO ME.

BE DONE WITH IT
THAN... TO WORK
UP MORE SPELLS,
EVEN A SORCERER
OF MY ABILITY
NEEDS TIME...
YOU'VE HOUNDED ME FOR YEARS...
IT'S OVER. AT LEAST DO ME THE
COURTESY OF SLAYING ME SWIFTLY!



JUST THE WAY I ALWAYS INTENDED,
SHARKHAN... TO FINALLY RID THE
WORLD OF YOU AND YOUR DARK KIND!



ONLY WHAT THEN...? FIGHT
FIGHT P DDLING WARS
AND BARROOM BRAWLS
UNTIL SOME YOUNG BRAVO
LIKE ARISTO FINALLY
DOES ME IN...?



WHEN YOU DIE,
SORCERER... AN AGE
DIES WITH YOU AND
LIKE IT OR NOT...



...IT'S MY AGE TOO. WE'RE BOTH
THE STUFF OF SONG AND STORY NOW.
SO WORK WHATEVER SPELLS YOU
WILL, SHARKHAN...

...AND LET OUR FIGHT CONTINUE
THIS NEW WORLD CAN USE A
FEW LEGENDS MORE!

THE DARK
CIVILIZATION
IS COME. AN OLDER
AGE IS PASSING
PASSING... BUT
PASSING GOES

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UNCLE
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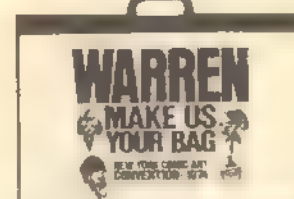
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NEW! AMAZING SCI-FI MODELS



FLYING SUB From Voyage to the Bottom of the Sea comes this super incredible model molded at 1/80 scale in bright yellow and black. 7 1/2" wing span display base and has a removable top showing detailed interior. #24239/\$3.50



THE UFO From the famous science fiction TV show 'The Invaders' This 7" in diameter model is molded in easy to snap together plastic comes with extendible landing gear, alien terrain base & seven figures! #24240/\$3.50

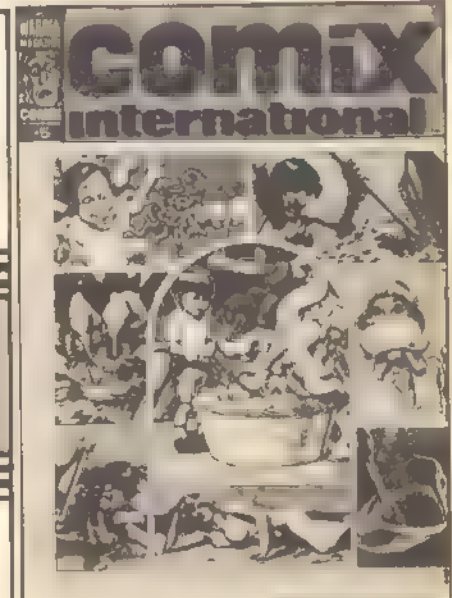


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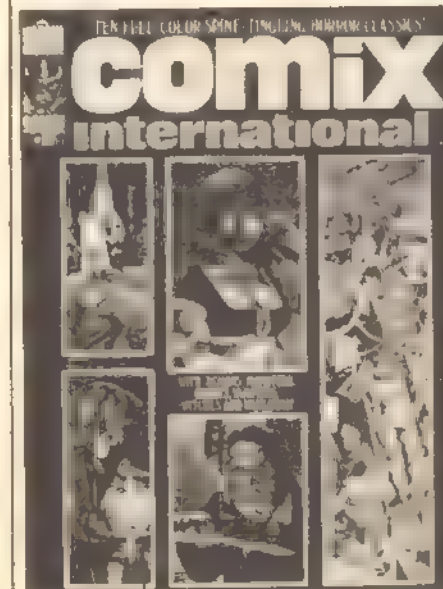
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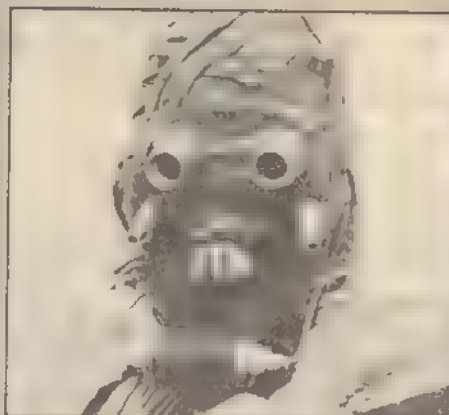
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14 photos never before printed from Star Wars of everyone & everything—R2D2, Leia, Luke, Han C3PO & so much more! Wow! Get in line for 79! #26102/\$4.95

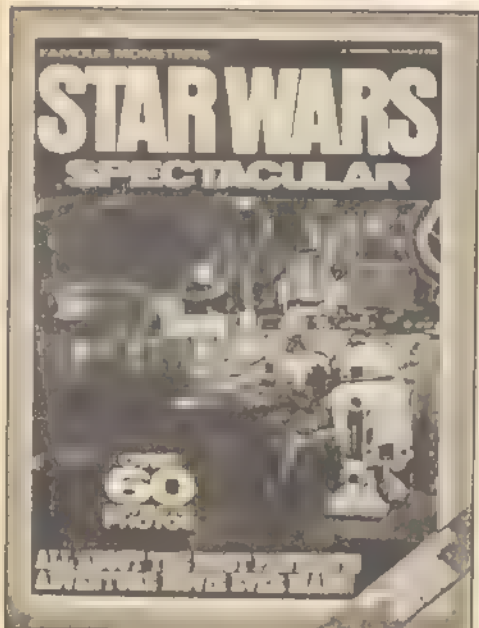


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STAR WARS

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DARTH VADER TIE FIGHTER



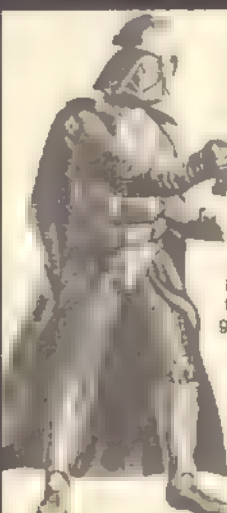
DARTH VADER TIE FIGHTER Large size model holds the 12 action figures. TIE fighter comes with pop-off solar panels, light up laser canon & laser sound! Batteries not included! #24224 \$17.95

STAR WARS POSTER ART SET



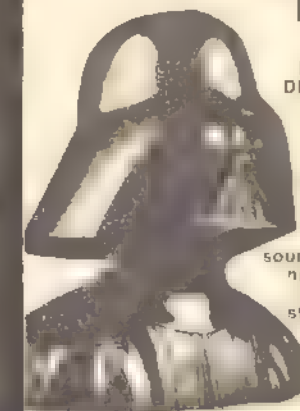
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DARTH VADER FIGURE

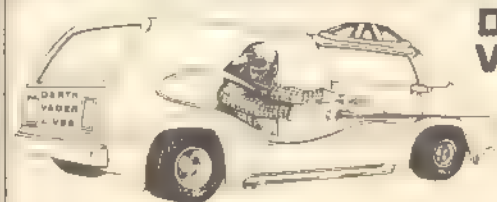


DARTH VADER FIGURE Darth Vader stalks menacingly in this easy to assemble model kit. Darth's figure is 11 1/2" tall and a movable arm grips a nasty 8 3/4" light saber that glows in the dark! This kit is highly detailed and molded in a shiny black plastic. The authentic Star Wars model kit. This is guaranteed to bring you hours of pleasure! #24225 \$5.99

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DARTH VADER ACTION KIT Large 10 3/4" kit molded in color is easy to assemble. It has actual breathing sound is illuminating and is highly realistic. No paint needed. Batteries required! #24212 \$11.95



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STAR WARS SNAP TOGETHER VANS

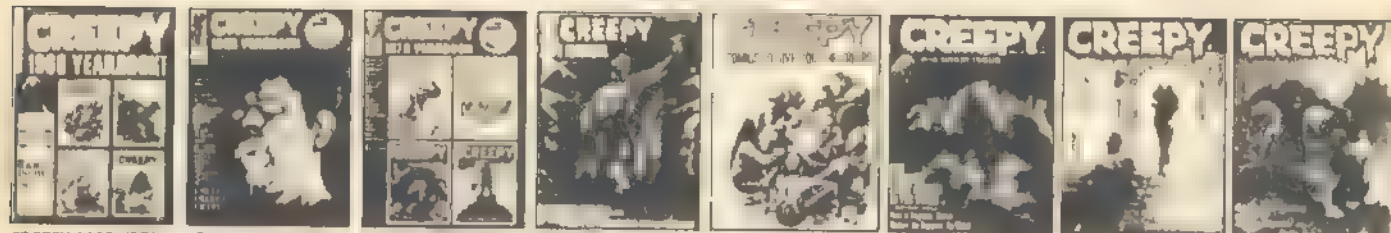
STAR WARS SNAP TOGETHER VANS. Show your own Star Wars collection in a new way! Snap together Star Wars vans and accessories in full color to not a single drop of paint or glue is required! Just snap together! And, for the first time anywhere, they come with glue in the dark! Snap together your own Star Wars collection in the dark! Snap together your own Star Wars collection in the dark! Snap together your own Star Wars collection in the dark!



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CREEPY BACK ISSUES



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BATTLESTAR GALACTICA POSTER
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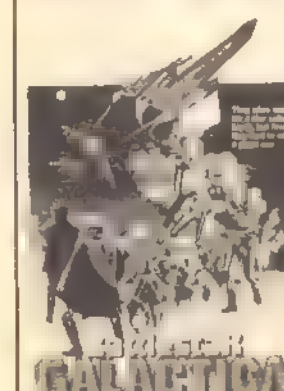


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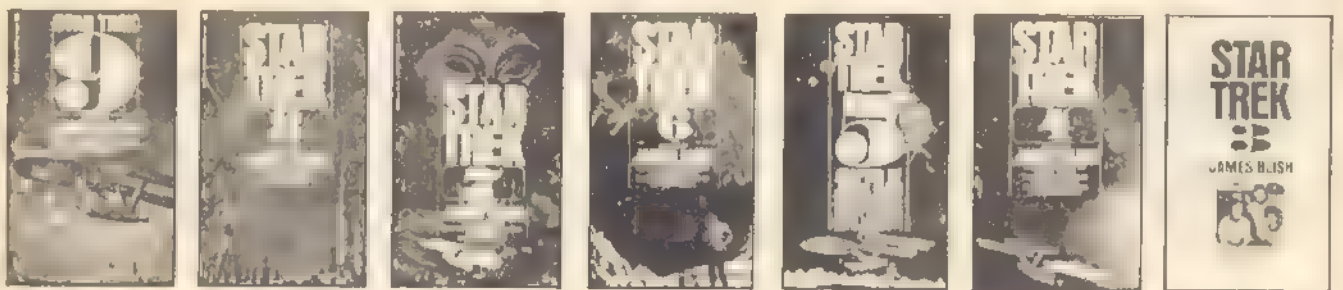
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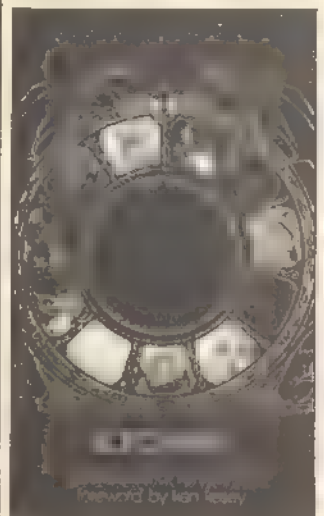
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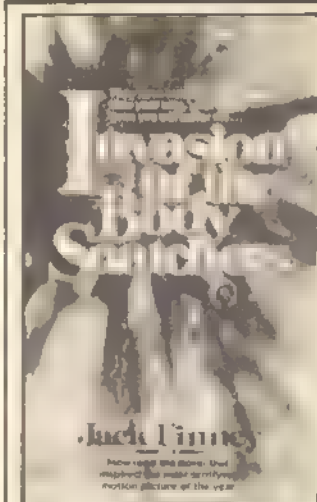


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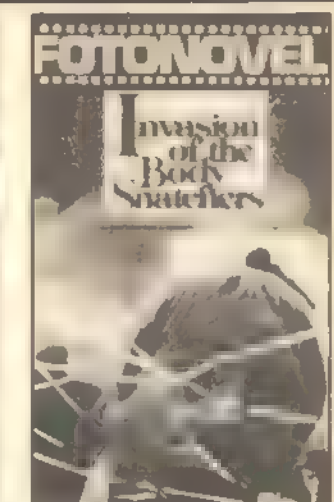


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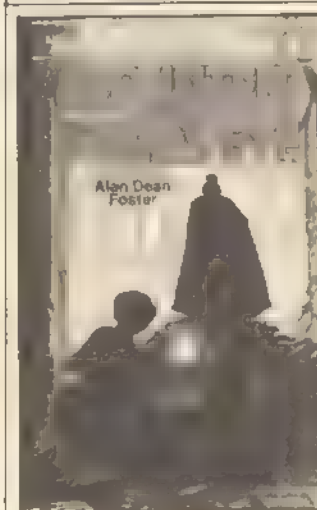


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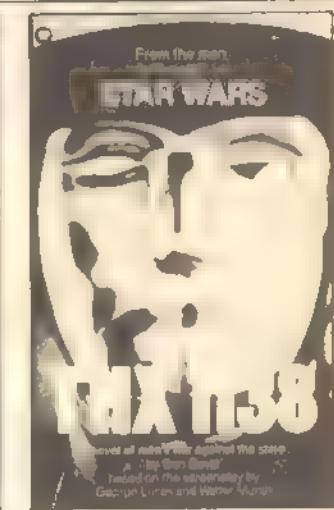


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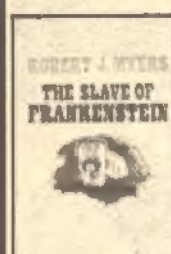


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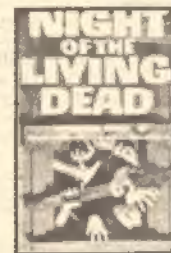
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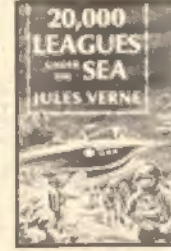
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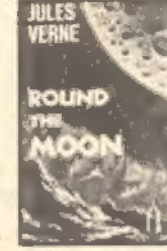
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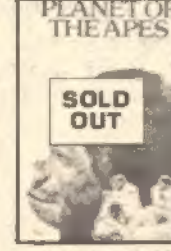
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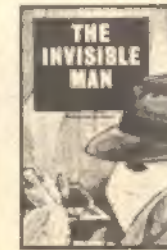
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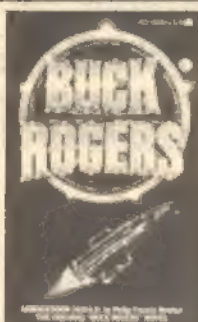


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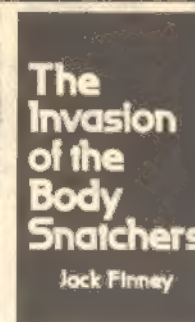
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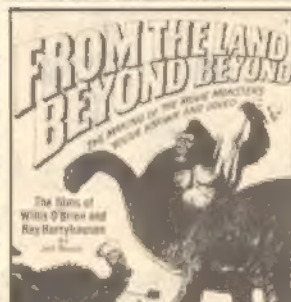


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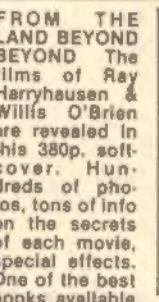


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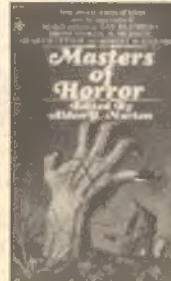
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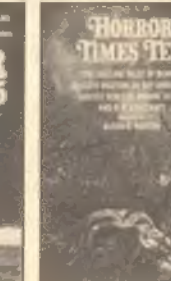
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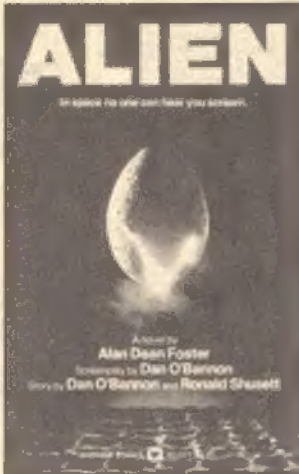
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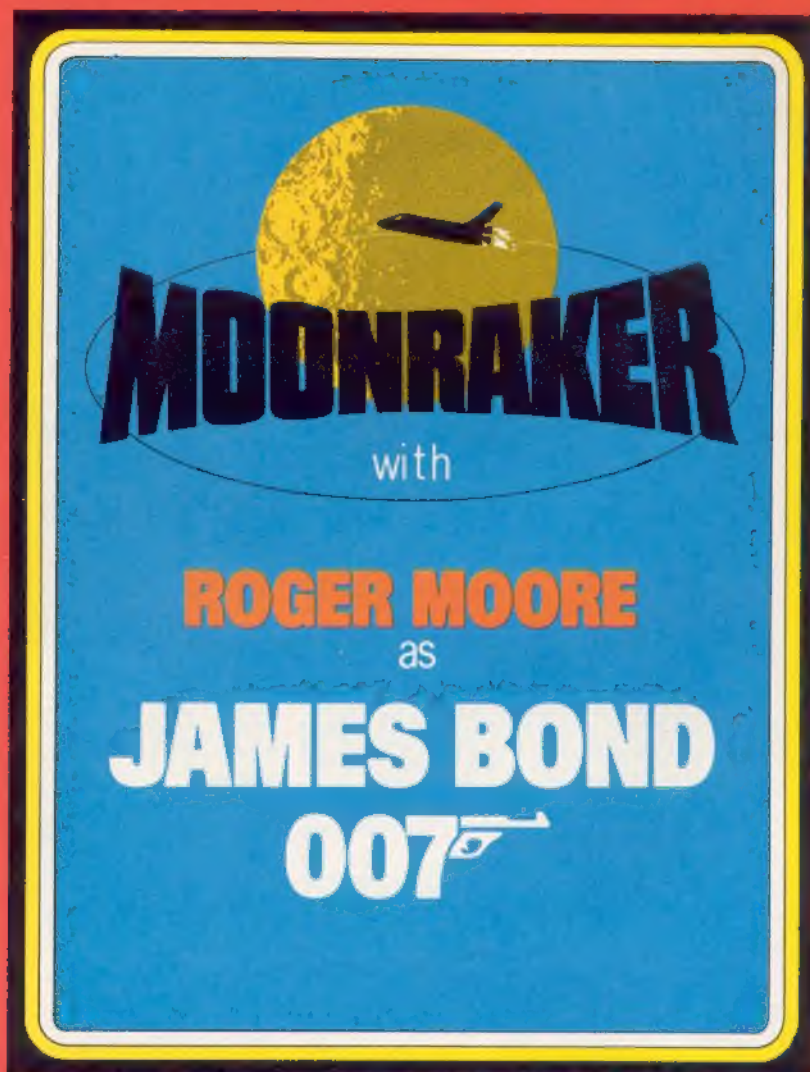
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